

Hafa Adai!

One-Start Permitting process is further enhanced. **PAGE 3**

Marianas Tourism Month celebration in May. **PAGE 6**

\$1

# Saipan Tribune



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## OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang are joined by Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Mary S. Sablan, Office on Aging director Walter Manglona, lawmakers, dignitaries, Cabinet members, and elderly congregants of the Office on Aging after the designation of the month of May 2023 as Older Americans Month, or Mes Man Æmku' and Marameer Tuufey, with this year's theme of "Aging Unbound."

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## DPL: IPI violated land lease terms

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
[ferdie\\_delatorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

**T**he Department of Public Lands has issued a notice of violation to Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC for failing to remit \$250,000 to DPL to replen-



Santos

» **Notice of violation issued despite IPI's remittance of \$150,000 for lease rental last November, other required documents**

ish the required security deposit, among other alleged violations of the land lease agreement.

See DPL on Page 4

## CPA request to DOT for added funding garners broad support

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
[kimberly\\_esmores@saipantribune.com](mailto:kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Various CNMI officials and stakeholders have rallied together to support the Commonwealth Ports Authority's recent request for \$30-million supplemental funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Tan Holdings Corp. president and CEO Jerry Tan, who is an appointed member of the U.S. Travel and Tourism Advisory Board, and CNMI officials like Lt. Gov. David Apatang, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan (R-Tinian), and

See CPA on Page 4

## Tenorio elected CUC board chair; Terlaje is named acting CUC chief

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

From a temporary capacity, Janice A. Tenorio is now officially the chairperson of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors, while CUC administration chief Betty G. Terlaje has

See TENORIO on Page 4



Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors chair Janice A. Tenorio presides over the continuation of last week's board meeting yesterday in the CUC conference room at the Joeten Dandan Building. Tenorio designated CUC administration chief Betty G. Terlaje, extreme right, as acting executive director effective that day and until further notice.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

## Tinian agri homesteads on moratorium

The Department of Public Lands has announced that it is placing a moratorium on the issuance and/or acceptance of homestead applications under the Tinian Agricultural Homestead Program effective yesterday, April 27, 2023.

There are currently over 422 pending agricultural applications received by DPL; however, because of the re-

See TINIAN on Page 4

**'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN**

Days until  
**'touchback rule' takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:**

**155**

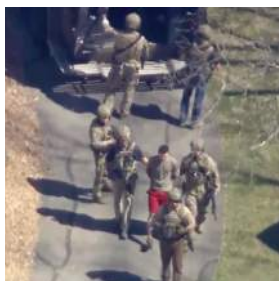
## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

The CNMI Women's Association has launched AfterBurn Workouts for women entrepreneurs.

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### NATION

Prosecutors will urge a judge to keep behind bars a guardsman accused of leaking classified documents.

PAGE 12



### LIFE & STYLE

Queen frontman Freddie Mercury's extensive collection will be auctioned in September.

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## Local

# Concepcion returns to MVA

Christopher A. Concepcion returns to the position of managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority beginning Monday, May 1, as announced by the MVA board of directors.

"The board of the MVA would like to welcome back Mr. Christopher Concepcion as our managing director," said MVA acting board chair Gloria Cavanagh in making yesterday's announcement. "This position is not new to him, but it will be a very different situation. With all the major successes he had

accomplished before, we are confident that we have chosen the right candidate to bring us through this difficult time."



Concepcion

Concepcion served as managing director of the state tourism office from 2016 to 2019. As managing director, Concepcion will be responsible for the overall day-to-day management of personnel, resources, budgets, programs, and activities of the MVA toward the orderly growth of Marianas tourism.

"I thank the board and the new administration for their

endorsement and support of my reappointment as managing director," said Concepcion. "The travel industry has been fundamentally transformed the past few years, so we have a very challenging task ahead of us. We must reposition our islands as a premier destination of choice in the post-COVID era. The Marianas offers an attractive product—we just have to improve and invest in it. We want our partners in our source markets to be confident in promoting our destination. I bring a wealth of experience in both the public and private sectors to this position, and I am certain that with team effort and community support, we can steer the tourism industry down the right path."

Concepcion previously served as sales & marketing executive for Delta Air Lines and, most recently, as deputy director of the Office of Planning & Development under the Office of the Governor. He holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from University of Idaho.

"The board would also like to thank deputy managing di-

See MVA on Page 4

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# One-Start Permitting process is further enhanced

As part of the Palacios-Apatang administration's priorities to make government processes more efficient, the administration announced yesterday that the permitting process that involves minor land clearing has been enhanced to reduce turn-around time for applicants.

The enhancement of the permitting process included

## New JKPL hours

Effective last Monday, April 24, 2023, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will have new hours of operation, in accordance with Governor's Directive 2023-002.

Beginning this Saturday, April 29, 2023, every other Saturdays are designated as "austerity days" for JKPL.

JKPL's revised hours of operation are as follows: Open Tuesday to Thursday, 10am to 6pm, Friday, 1:30pm to 7pm, and Saturday, 9:30am to 4pm. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and Holidays.

JKPL will be closed for austerity on the following Saturdays: April 29, May 13, May 27, June 10, June 24, July 8, July 22, Aug. 5, Aug. 19, Sept. 2, Sept. 16 and Sept. 30, 2023. (PR)



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

From left, Historic Preservation Office state historic preservation officer Rita Chong, Indigenous Affairs Office resident director Ross Manglona, Division of Environmental Quality director Zabrina Mae S. Cruz, acting Coastal Resources Management director Robert Deleon Guerrero, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Eli D. Cabrera, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Mary S. Sablan, Division of Fish and Wildlife director Manny Pangelinan, acting Department of Lands and Natural Resources secretary Floyd Masga, and Office of the Governor special programs advisor Frank M. Rabauliman.

cooperation by the Division of Fish & Wildlife, Division of Coastal Resources Management, Historic Preservation Office, and the Division of Environmental Quality, who recently renewed their One-Start memorandum of agreement.

One-Start is a streamlined permitting process aimed at ensuring efficiency and timely review and approval of land-clearing permits. It allows applicants to submit the application at DEQ with all the

necessary requirements, such as the site map and land title, and route those copies of the application packet to other regulatory agencies for review. Once completed, DEQ then issues the permit with agency conditions that permittees must adhere to.

Through the One-Start permit, permittees are assured that all regulatory requirements from CRM, HPO, DFW, DEQ, and their respective federal counterparts have been met, and land clearing

may commence. The prerequisite of the One-Start permit is the Zoning permit.

The One-Start process started during the Fitial administration and was further strengthened during the

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# Torres' defense team backs Barcinas' appointment

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The defense team of former governor Ralph DLG Torres has filed a notice of non-objection to the appointment of Guam Superior Court judge Arthur Barcinas to serve as judge pro tempore in the former governor's pending criminal case.

Torres' team of attorneys, which includes Viola Alepuyo, Victorino DLG Torres, Anthony Aguon, and Matthew Holley, have filed a notice of

non-objection on behalf of their client, as per the Supreme Court's instruction to file a motion to disqualify Barcinas within 10 days should they believe grounds exist for him to be disqualified.

"Mr. Torres respectfully submits to the court that he has no objection to the appointment of judge Barcinas as judge pro tempore," states the notice.

Last Tuesday, April 25, the CNMI Supreme Court appointed Barcinas of the Superior Court of Guam to

serve as judge pro tem in this matter.

The CNMI Judiciary was forced to seek the assistance of the Guam Judiciary after all Superior Court judges, including judge pro tem Alberto Tolentino, recused themselves from this case.

Last April 19, Tolentino issued what's referred to as a *sua sponte* order recusing himself. He did not elaborate but noted that the recusal is due to ongoing health issues.

Tolentino's recusal left the Torres case without a

judge once again as Tolentino was only appointed by the Supreme Court because all of the CNMI's judges have recused themselves from hearing the case almost immediately after it was filed.

The Office of the Attorney General has charged Torres with 12 counts of misconduct in public office and one count of theft relating to the issuance of airline tickets for business class, first class, or other premium class travel for himself and/or his wife.

## DPL

From Page 1

DPL Secretary Teresita A. Santos, who was in an acting capacity at the time, issued the notice of violation to IPI president Lingli Cai last March 31.

According to DPL's notice of violation, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Santos informed Cai that failure to cure the listed violations within 30 days will place IPI in automatic default of the lease and that DPL will be forced to take corrective action.

Santos issued the notice of violation despite IPI's remittance of \$150,000 in lease rental to DPL and submission of its revised appraisal report dated Nov. 7, 2022, as prepared by LBT Appraisal, and the 2021 audited financial statement prepared by the accounting firm Burger, Comer, and Magliari on Nov. 16, 2022.

Santos stated in the notice that despite IPI's payment of account and submission of documents last Nov. 16, the company failed to cure the violations as provided in DPL's Oct. 18, 2022, notice of default issued by then-DPL secretary Sixto K. Igisomar.

Another uncured violation, she said, is IPI's failure to submit to DPL a copy of IPI's valid fire and damage insurance policy, with extended coverage endorsements.

Santos said the fire and damage insurance policy should be jointly in the names of IPI and DPL, covering the full insurable value of all permanent improvements on the premises.

She said IPI failed to submit to DPL a copy of the company's valid commercial general liability insurance policy for the premises and operation,

with DPL and the CNMI government named as co-insured, with the required minimum coverage amounts.

The secretary said IPI also failed to submit to DPL a copy of all licenses, certificates, permits, and other required authorizations from any other government authorities having jurisdiction over the operation of IPI under the lease, specifically including a certificate of occupancy, valid business license, and most recent filed annual corporation reports.

As for IPI's payment of \$150,000 and submission of documents, Santos said DPL reviewed the revised report prepared by LBT Appraisal and concurs with the firm's conclusion of the market value of the unimproved land properties in the amount of \$4.14 million.

She said IPI's guaranteed annual minimal lease rental for the second five-year period beginning April 29, 2020 through April 28, 2025, at 5% of the \$4.14 million appraise value, is \$207,000 annually.

Given the lease rental schedule for the second five-year period, along with IPI's \$150,000 remittance, DPL made adjustments on IPI's account, showing a credit of \$25,426. Thus, Santos said, with the adjustment showing credit minus the annual lease rental, IPI's lease rental amount due is \$179,761.

She said this amount will cover the lease rental period beginning May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024, and it is due by May 1, 2023.

## TINIAN

From Page 1

duced availability of public lands, DPL will be assessing the availability of public lands for agricultural homestead purposes.

Yesterday's notice allows DPL additional time to seek and explore suitable areas for agricultural activities for future accommodations, said a statement from the Office of the Governor.

For more information, contact the DPL Tinian District Office at (670) 433-9245 or email [dpdtiq@dpl.gov.mp](mailto:dpdtiq@dpl.gov.mp). You may also visit their website at [www.dpl.gov.mp](http://www.dpl.gov.mp) or the DPL office at PM Building in San Jose Village, Tinian. **(PR)**

## MVA

From Page 2

rector Judy Torres who has kept the authority together for the past months," added Cavanagh. "She and the board are ready to support Mr. Concepcion in our path to a successful recovery."

The MVA operates offices on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, South Korea, and Japan. **(PR)**

## CPA

From Page 1

various CNMI legislators have written separate letters supporting CPA's recent request to the DOT and outlining the risks the CNMI face due to its faltering tourism sector.

Tan, who wrote directly to Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, stated that he supports CPA request for supplemental funding.

"I have discussed the request to your department with CPA officials and support both their explanation of the current circumstances and their request for assistance," he said.

As a member of the TTAB with experience in the CNMI's tourism economy, Tan shared the unique conditions the CNMI faces in its attempts to rebuild its economy, which depends heavily on tourism.

"Recent statistics have shown that, in spite of considerable effort from the CNMI government and CPA, travel to the CNMI remains historically low and hindered by low travel demand among

key source markets. To operate in a depressed outbound market among regional destinations eager to decrease costs of travel and accommodation will require the CNMI to put forward even greater resources to remain competitive in the market," Tan said.

"However, as stated in the CPA's request, these resources are unavailable. The resulting need for increased charges to offset the loss of airport revenue is well understood to be a short-term solution with diminishing value as the increasing costs may witness lower demand for the CNMI as a destination. The request of CPA at this juncture allows the CNMI to prevent its entering into a 'vicious spiral' in which the measures taken to respond to decreased travel demand will in turn further exacerbate the underlying issue of low arrivals. This spiral without additional federal support will have wide-ranging impacts to employment, and business and government revenue derived from economic activity," he added.

Tan acknowledged that the

request for additional support will require significant consideration and assessment, but he stated that short-term support for the CPA at this point can potentially be instrumental in securing a lasting framework for the CNMI's economic recovery.

"As a resident of the CNMI, a stakeholder within the tourism industry and as an advocate for the advancement of the Western Pacific region, I am tremendously grateful for the monumental efforts that have been undertaken by CPA and the U.S. Department of Transportation to continue to safeguard and support our community. It is my hope that the context and challenges facing the CNMI's economy after three years of challenges caused by COVID-19 provides additional resources to aid in your consideration of CPA's request," he said.

In a letter to CPA executive director Christopher Tenorio, Apatang stated that he understands CPA's need for additional funding and he is committed to supporting the agency in its efforts.

"I am committed to sup-

porting CPA's efforts to obtain federal assistance to offset any revenue shortfall that may hinder airport operations in the next two years during our islands' economic recovery," he said.

Sablan echoed Apatang's statement, saying he fully supports CPA's efforts.

"I recognize that recent super typhoons that devastated the Marianas, shortly followed by a global pandemic, have gutted revenues across all Marianas ports. These same compounding disasters have likewise crippled tourism, our sole economic industry, making a speedy recovery even more unlikely. Marianas airports have clearly been harmed by the severe downturn in air service resulting in a precipitous decline in revenues. Thus, I support CPA's efforts to seek the necessary financial assistance to maintain operations and keep our airports functioning optimally for the traveling public," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## TENORIO

From Page 1

been designated as acting CUC executive director.

Donald R. Browne was also elected board vice chair in yesterday's election, while Allen Michael Perez was elected secretary and treasurer, in the continuation of last week's CUC board meeting at the CUC conference room at the Joeten Dandan Building.

Before the election of officers, Tenorio, as chair pro tem, designated Terlaje as acting CUC executive director effective that day and "until further notice."

With four board members present, a quorum was established. With the guidance of assistant attorney general Hunter Hunt as counsel, the board proceeded with the election of officers. It was Perez who nominated Tenorio to serve as chair and

Browne as vice chair.

Also present at the meeting was Commonwealth Economic Development Authority chair Frank Borja, who is a member of the board.

In a later interview with the media, Tenorio said her goal is to close the job vacancy announcement for the position of executive director and hire that individual.

She said that since Chretien T. Voerg, who is the deputy executive director for water/wastewater, resigned Wednesday, his position will also be announced probably that day (yesterday).

Voerg did not indicate his reason for leaving CUC in his resignation letter.

Voerg's resignation as acting executive director took effect yesterday afternoon. He informed Tenorio that he is also resigning as deputy director for water/wastewater deputy director effective June 2, 2023.

Tenorio designated Voerg as acting executive director last Monday, shortly after she sacked Dr. Dallas M. Peavey Jr.

It was Tenorio who first designated Peavey as acting executive director last Feb. 21 when Gary P. Camacho resigned as executive director. Peavey was hired last year as deputy director for CUC's electric power systems.

When asked about Voerg's reason for resigning, Tenorio said she can't comment as it's a personal matter. Tenorio also refused to comment about the specific reason why she terminated Peavey's employment.

As for Terlaje's designation as acting chief executive director, Tenorio said Terlaje has been with CUC for a long time and has the institutional knowledge of the corporation, but is not interested in the executive director's position.

She said Terlaje also does not meet the requisite quali-

cations; federal court-stipulated orders have quite specific requirements for the position of CUC's executive director.


Tenorio said she believes CUC officials are doing a good job managing the agency, but it's just unfortunate that people have to resign, which is beyond their control.

She said they are trying their best to fill up key positions, but that CUC is an agency that requires specialized individuals such as engineers, senior engineers, senior managers and senior executives, that they just need to really search, continue the search, and then hire those individuals.

"When we do, of course individuals from off-island are given that opportunity as well," the chair said.

During the public comments portion of the board meeting, Rep. Vincent S. Aldan (Ind-Saipan) pointed out that CUC's organizational chart indicates that Terlaje



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# Marianas Tourism Month celebration in May

In celebration of May Tourism Month, the Marianas Visitors Authority has organized a series of community events to celebrate and support the primary economic driver of the Marianas.

"More than ever, we see the importance of tourism in our community and its value in providing benefits to our people, our government, our businesses, and our community," said MVA acting managing director Judy C. Torres. "We invite everyone to join us in celebrating the industry during May Tourism Month as we

continue to work collectively toward the recovery of tourism and toward our ongoing goal to become a preferred travel destination in the world."

A proclamation signing ceremony declaring May as Tourism Month will be held on May 3, 2023, at 2pm at the Office of the Governor.

The MVA is also holding a Facebook photo contest "Capture the Beauty of The Marianas." Participants must post their favorite photo of Saipan, Tinian, or Rota between May 1 and May 24, 2023, at 11:59pm ChST and use

the hashtags #MyMarianas, #TheMarianas, #CapturetheBeautyofTheMarianas2023, #VistTheMarianas, and either #Saipan, #Tinian, or #Rota to indicate where the photo was taken. Photos must feature Marianas attractions, such as historical or cultural sites, beaches, or others. Winners will be announced on May 31, 2023, via the MVA Facebook page @VistTheMarianas.

On May 19, the MVA will host its annual Youth Familiarization Tour field trip on Tinian for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. As "Tourists for a Day," students will learn about the significance of historic Tinian sites and the importance of site preservation. A similar event will be held on May 25 for

tourism partners on Tinian who are front-line workers in the industry, including employees of tour companies, car rentals, hotels, restaurants, and government.

The Marianas Tourism Month 5K Fun Run will be held on May 20, 2023, at 7am from Garapan Fishing Base south on the Saipan Beach Pathway to Quartermaster Road and back. Online registration will open shortly and is \$10. Cash prizes will be awarded for the best tourist costume and top three male and female finishers. All proceeds will benefit a charitable nonprofit organization.

Island beautification also remains a priority for Marianas Tourism Month. On May 20

students of the Yap Club and Student Council at Dr. Rita S. Inos Jr./Sr. High School on Rota will work with the MVA to paint the restroom facility at I'Chenchon Bird Sanctuary. On May 27 the Beautify My Marianas Cleanup will be held in various locations around Saipan. The general public is invited to meet at 8am at American Memorial Park to clean in downtown Garapan, while school MY WAVE Clubs will clean at designated beaches around the island. On Tinian, Operation Cleanup will be held on May 30-31, targeting tourist sites in southern Tinian that were abandoned after recent typhoons or during the pandemic, with exploration of potential new visitor sites.

The public will have the chance to win Tourism Month T-shirts and gift cards throughout the month by correctly answering tourism-related trivia questions on radio station Power 99 (97.5 FM) and Magic 100 (100.3 FM).

For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/VisitTheMarianas](http://www.facebook.com/VisitTheMarianas) or contact MVA community projects specialist Jack Aranda at (670) 664-3200/1 or [communityprojects@mymarianas.com](mailto:communityprojects@mymarianas.com). (MVA)

Robert Tenorio Torres

Attorney at Law  
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)  
P.O. Box 500730  
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859  
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Claimant Bank of Guam

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ] Civil Action No. 17-0256 (R)  
RAMON M. SABLAN, ]  
Deceased. ] NOTICE OF AUCTION AND  
JUDICIAL SALE OF  
LOT 646 R 112

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that under and by virtue of an Order made by the Court and entered in the above-titled action on the 21st of March 2023, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Claimant Bank of Guam in the above-titled action, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Property. The undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on **June 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.**, at Robert T. Torres Law Office, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in the said judgment, to wit:

Lot 646 R 112, contains an area of 929 square meters. The property is located in the Chenchon area below the Rota Airport.

Notice: The property boundaries are subject to the buyer's survey at the buyer's own cost. The map below is the approximate location of the property, without any guarantees.



1. **Public Sale.** The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. **With Reserve.** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
  - a. withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before the sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
  - b. to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
  - c. to reject any and all bids.
4. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: [robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com](mailto:robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com).
5. **Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property will revert to the Claimant Bank of Guam.
6. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and the Estate Administratrix reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by the announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres to schedule viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 13th day of April 2023.

/s/ Robert T. Torres  
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

# LW

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# NMC students complete internship with OVR

Northern Marianas College students Amelia Cabrera and Shianne Santos have completed an eight-week internship with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation/Office of the Governor as part of the requirements for a bachelor's degree in Education with an emphasis in Rehabilitation and Human Services. The students spoke briefly about their experiences at a professional development session on their last day.

"I really didn't know anything about OVR before coming here, but our professor wanted us to step out of our comfort zone and I'm so glad I did. I feel like I have a much better understanding of services available to people with disabilities," said Cabrera.

Santos echoed a similar sentiment. "To be honest, of all the places I wanted to do my practicum, OVR was not one of them. But I'm grateful for the time and grace shown throughout this experience—I learned a lot," she said.

Both students had opportunities to learn more about the vocational rehabilitation system, its history, purpose and, more importantly, the direct services available to eligible clients with disabilities.

Case services manager Ar-



Northern Marianas College students Amelia Cabrera, left, and Shianne Santos.

lene Yamagata, reiterated the importance and need to carefully consider the eligibility criteria. "First, of course, a physical or mental disability and that the disability presents a substantial impediment to employment. Then we make a determination whether or not the person would benefit from VR services. Not all people with disabilities would benefit from VR services due to the severity of disability, but we do have members of our community that need extra support and services to realize their employment goals, which is exactly OVR's mission. We want to see everyone succeed in life and become productive

and contributing members of our island community."

Established in 1975, OVR is a state and federal partnership agency placed within the Office of the Governor to increase employment and promote independence among eligible individuals with disabilities throughout the CNMI.

OVR transition specialist Sam Santos, said that more people should know about OVR and its efforts in "providing employment opportunities or carving out career pathways and filling in the employment gaps for people with disabilities with the unconditional belief that they can and should also work."

OVR receives federal grant funds to provide vocational rehabilitation services to assist eligible individuals with disabilities prepare for, secure, retain, advance in, or regain competitive integrated employment within their strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice. Services include, but

are not limited to, vocational rehabilitation counseling and guidance, information and referral, physical and mental diagnosis and restoration services, vocational and other training services, job search/placement assistance/job retention services, supported employment services, post-employment services, rehabilitation/assistive technology,

and school-to-work transition services. Services are individualized and provided in the context of an approved Individualized Plan for Employment. OVR consumers may be required to financially participate in their rehabilitation program.

Yamagata added: "We hope to see students like Amelia and Shianne consider careers in vocational rehabilitation or other disability-related professions after college." (PR)



Northern Marianas College students Amelia Cabrera and Shianne Santos are flanked by Office of Vocational Rehabilitation case services manager Arlene Yamagata, right, and OVR director Jim Rayphand.



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COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-23-013

RELOCATION OF EXISTING 0.065 MG MODULAR TANK IN KAGMAN



The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Relocation of Existing 0.065 MG Modular Tank in Kagman, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of furnishing all labor, supervision, equipment and materials for the relocation of an existing water tank within San Vicente Water tank site to the existing Kagman booster pump station site. Work includes, but is not limited to disassembly and relocation of an existing 65,000-gallon modular fiberglass potable water tank; demolition and disposal of existing temporary tank plinth at San Vicente Tank site; construction of tank foundation; installation of relocated tank, piping and appurtenances; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

*This project is funded by a grant from the us Public Law 117-2 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).*

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **120 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-23-013, Relocation of the Existing 0.065 MG Modular Water Tank in Kagman**”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the Unites States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 19, 2023** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Project Engineer via email at [alley.reyes@cucgov.org](mailto:alley.reyes@cucgov.org) and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email at [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org)

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

DR. DALLAS M. PEAVEY, JR.  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator

# Exercise tests radiological threat response



The 94th Civil Support Team conducted an exercise responding to a radiological threat yesterday morning at Fort Juan Muña, Barrigada, Guam, with the training exercise scenario focusing on assessing the incident site and identifying the intensity of those hazards.

“We have a team down range that’s looking through the incident site to identify the hazard and what level those hazards are and sending those readings through our instruments,” said Lt. Col. John Guerrero of the 94th CST.

The training demonstrates the commitment of the Guam Guard to defend the island and the importance of preparedness in the face of potential threats. By conducting training like this, the Guam Guard soldiers can better help the community handle emergencies and protect Guam against potential hazards.

“This exercise aligns with the adjutant general’s priority to defend Guam. The team is doing such amazing work. We would like to thank the leadership supporting the team and the trainers that came out to provide a realistic scenario,” said Guerrero.” **(PR)**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: RJCL CORPORATION DBA RNV CONSTRUCTION

THE POSITION: ELECTRICAL SUPERVISOR

NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 2

**JOB DESCRIPTION:** PLAN AND SCHEDULE PROJECTS; ESTIMATE THE TIME AND MATERIALS NEEDED TO COMPLETE PROJECTS; MAINTAIN RECORDS ANDDOCUMENTATION RELATING TO THE ONGOING COMPLETION OF PROJECTS; ENSURE THAT WORK IS COMPLETED ON SCHEDULE AND TO CODE; INSPECT ANDASSESS THE WORK DONE BY THE ELECTRICAL STAFF; SUPERVISE ELECTRICIANS IN THEIR WORK, AND PROVIDE APPROPRIATE GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCTION; OVERSEE THE PURCHASE AND MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT ON-SITE; ENSURE THAT WORK COMPLIES WITH ALL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS; TROUBLESHOOT MAJOR SYSTEM FAILURES AND EQUIPMENT MALFUNCTIONS; PROVIDE MOTIVATION AND ASSISTANCE TO ELECTRICIANS WHEN NECESSARY; CONSULT WITH BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, AND OTHER WORKERS ON-SITE.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

**EDUCATION:** MUST BE AT LEAST HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

**EXPERIENCE:** MUST HAVE AT LEAST TWENTY-FOUR (24) MONTHS OF RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE AS AN ELECTRICIAN

**OTHER SPECIAL SKILLS:** MUST BE KNOWLEDGEABLE WITH THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE (NEC) AND OTHER RELATED ELECTRICAL CODES; MUST BE KNOWLEDGEABLE WITH ALL ASPECTS OF ELECTRICAL WORKS INCLUDING, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, ELECTRICAL PIPE INSTALLATION, REPAIRS AND UPGRADES OF ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS; SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM; AND TROUBLESHOOTING ELECTRICAL WIRING

**JOB SITE:** BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**HOW TO APPLY:** SUBMIT OR MAIL YOUR APPLICATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE RESUME WITH SUPPORTING CREDENTIALS TO:

MICHELLE V. RUEDA  
COMPTROLLER  
RJCL CORPORATION DBA RNV CONSTRUCTION  
OFFICE ADDRESS: BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 504974, SAIPAN, MP 96950

EMAIL ADDRESS: MICHELLE@RNVCONSTRUCTION.COM  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 1(670) 235-8778

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: RJCL CORPORATION DBA RNV CONSTRUCTION

THE POSITION: FIELD SUPERVISOR

NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 2

**JOB DESCRIPTION:** LIASING WITH ENGINEERING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAMS TO ENSURE THAT THE PROJECT DESIGN IS ACCURATE BEFORE WORK COMMENCES; ORDERING AND SCHEDULING THE DELIVERY OF ALL EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR THE PROJECT; ACTING AS THE MAIN POINT OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE FIELD AND THE MAIN OFFICE; MANAGING THE WORK SCHEDULES AND TIME-CARDS FOR ALL FIELD STAFF; PROVIDING LEADERSHIP TO ON-SITE STAFF, SUB-CONTRACTORS, AND OTHER PARTIES; INVESTIGATING AND RESOLVING CUSTOMER COMPLAINTS; ENSURING THAT SAFETY POLICIES ARE STRICTLY ADHERED TO; REVIEWS PROJECT PROGRESSES TO ENSURE THAT DEADLINES ARE MET.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

**EDUCATION:** MUST BE AT LEAST HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

**EXPERIENCE:** MUST HAVE AT LEAST TWENTY-FOUR (24) MONTHS OF RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

**OTHER SPECIAL SKILLS:** MUST HAVE PROVEN EXPERIENCE IN ANY CONSTRUCTION SKILLED TRADE (ELECTRICIAN, CARPENTER, ETC.); MUST HAVE IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF CONSTRUCTION PROCEDURES, EQUIPMENT AND GUIDELINES; MUST HAVE THE ABILITY TO READ DRAWINGS, PLANS, AND BLUEPRINTS; WITH EXCELLENT ORGANIZATIONAL AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS; MUST HAVE THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE AND REPORT EFFECTIVELYL WITH EXCELLENT PROBLEM-SOLVING ABILITIES.

**JOB SITE:** BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**HOW TO APPLY:** SUBMIT OR MAIL YOUR APPLICATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE RESUME WITH SUPPORTING CREDENTIALS TO:

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EMAIL ADDRESS: MICHELLE@RNVCONSTRUCTION.COM  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 1(670) 235-8778





Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
4-Year Federal Aid Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP)



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Honorable Governor Arnold I. Palacios and the Honorable Lt. Governor David M. Apatang through the Department of Public Works (DPW) and Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) would like to notify the general public of the CNMI's 4-Year Federal Aid Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP).

A copy of the plan can be obtained at the DPW Technical Services Highway Office and from the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority for review and comments. Written comments pertaining to the CNMI DPW FHWA Funded Projects must be submitted directly to DPW TSD Highway Office, at the Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, 2nd Flr, Suite 211 on Beach Road or via email to lms.dpwtsd@gmail.com or ldlcs.dpw@gmail.com. For COTA's FTA Funded Projects please submit comments to the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) located at Lower Base Dr., Saipan or via email to alfredac.maratita@gov.mp no later than May 22, 2023, 2:00 pm.

Should you have any questions regarding the TTIP, you may contact Ms. Lorraine Villagomez, Highway Administrator or Ms. Lauren Sanchez, Federal Program Coordinator of the Department of Public Works Technical Services Division-Highway Office at (670) 234-9828 and for COTA's FTA Funded Projects, you may contact Mrs. Alfreda Camacho Maratita, Special Assistant for Public Transportation of the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority at (670) 664-2682 or via email to alfredac.maratita@gov.mp.

I. CNMI DEPARTMENT OF Public Works Technical Services Division Highway Office 4-YearTerritorial Transportation Improvement Plan  
PROJECTS FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

DISTRICT	VILLAGE	ROUTE NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY2023 FEDERAL	FY2024 FEDERAL	FY2025 FEDERAL	FY2026 FEDERAL	
ALL	ALL	FY	Highway Planning, Technology Transfer & Training Activities Program	Admin	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	
ALL	ALL	OJTSS	On The Job Training Support Services	Admin	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	
ALL	ALL	NSTI	National Summer Transportation Institute	Admin	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	
I	Songsong	10	Route 10 Drainage upgrade from Pinatang Park to CUC Power Plant - Phase II	PE-Design					
				Construction		\$ 1,000,000.00			
				CM					
I	Songsong	10	Hazard Elimination - Phase II	PE-Design					
				Construction	\$ 2,000,000.00				
				CM					
I	Dugi	103	Route 103 - Roadway Improvements	PE-Design					
				Construction		\$ 1,000,000.00			
				CM					
II	Island-Wide	201/202/26	Hazard Elimination	Construction	\$ 500,000.00				
II	San Jose	205	Road and Drainage Improvements	PE Design					
				Construction		\$ 2,100,000.00			
III	Chalan Laulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Chalan Pale Arnold Hazard Elimination Chalan Kiya to Quartermaster	PE					
				ROW					
				Construction		\$ 2,500,000.00			
				CM					
III	As Perdido	32	As Perdido Road Safety Improvements	PE-Design	\$ 200,000.00				
				Construction		\$ 1,000,000.00			
				CM-DPW					
III	Christo Rai - Micro Beach	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 4 - Roundabout	PE-Design					
				Construction	\$ 1,000,000.00				
				CM	\$ 200,000.00				
III	Talofofo	36	Route 36 - Winward/Chalan Kalabera Dev Phase I	Construction	\$ 4,000,000.00				
III	Airport Road	302/304	Naftan Road and Flametree Road Improvements						
				Construction	\$ 2,000,000.00				
				CM					
III	Capitol Hill	310	Route 310 Tapochao Road and drainage Improvements	PE-Design					
				Construction		\$ 500,000.00			
				CM					
III	Gualo Rai	317	Route 317 - Gualo Rai Road and Drainage Improvements	PE-Design					
				Construction			\$ 1,350,000.00		
				CM-DPW					
III	Island-Wide	30	Marpi Speed TablesConstruction	Construction				\$ 1,000,000.00	
		304	Dandan Resurfacing	Construction			\$ 1,500,000.00		
		30	Navy Hill to Puerto Rico Resurfacing	Construction				\$ 1,000,000.00	
		301	Koblerville Road Hazard Elimination	Construction				\$ 1,000,000.00	
		35	Airport Road Roundabout	Construction		\$ 1,000,000.00			
TOTAL OBLIGATION					\$ 11,445,000.00	\$ 10,645,000.00	\$ 4,395,000.00	\$ 4,545,000.00	
Estimated Carry Over Prior Fiscal Year TOTAL:						\$ 603,225.00	\$ 4,175,712.02	\$ 233,238.02	\$ 179,838.02
FMIS Unobligated Funds (Closed-Out Projects/De-obligated Funds)							\$ 2,444,086.0	\$ -	\$ -
OJTSS/NSTI						\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
Annual Allocation:						\$ 4,130,112.00	\$ 4,213,440.00	\$ 4,296,600.00	\$ 4,379,760.00
TOTAL ALLOCATION (not including Other Funds)						\$ 4,778,337.00	\$ 10,878,238.02	\$ 4,574,838.02	\$ 4,604,598.02
TOTAL ALLOCATION - Coronavirus Recovery Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act						\$ 842,375.02	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL ALLOCATION - Earmarked Funds						\$ 10,000,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL ALLOCATION - other (ER, Special Funds, etc.)						\$ 15,620,712.02	\$ 10,878,238.02	\$ 4,574,838.02	\$ 4,604,598.02
TOTAL OBLIGATION (not including other funds)						\$ 11,445,000.00	\$ 10,645,000.00	\$ 4,395,000.00	\$ 4,545,000.00
FISCAL ALLOCATION TO HQ (Not including Other Funds)						\$ 4,175,712.02	\$ 233,238.02	\$ 179,838.02	\$ 59,598.02

II. Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) Transportation Improvement Plan  
PROJECTS FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration

DISTRICT	VILLAGE	FIXED ROUTE NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY2023 FEDERAL	FY2024 FEDERAL	FY2025 FEDERAL	FY2026 FEDERAL
	SAIPAN		Operations Asssitance and Program Administration		\$ 1,893,872.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,545,000.00	\$ 1,591,350.00
	SAIPAN		Purchase of Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations			\$ 2,373,645.00		
	SAIPAN		Purchase of Four (4) ADA Accessible Transit Vans		\$ 420,000.00			
	SAIPAN		Ferry Feasibility Study and Transportation Masterplan	Professional Services	\$ 800,000.00			
	SAIPAN		CNMI COVID-19 Research Development Grant		\$ 300,000.00			
	SAIPAN	ALL	A/E Design and Installation of 187 Bus Stop Shelters	PE Design	\$ 100,000.0			
				Construction		\$ 3,520,000.00		
				CM		\$ 880,000.00		
	SAIPAN	3	A/E Design and Construction of COTA's Bus Transfer Stations at Northern Marianas College, Garapan, and Kagman	PE Design	\$ 80,000.00			
				Construction		\$ 750,000.00		
				CM		\$ 70,000.00		
	SAIPAN		A/E Design and Construction of COTA's Covered Bus Parking at the Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility	PE Design		\$ 100,000.00		
				Construction			\$ 2,200,000.00	
				CM			\$ 700,000.00	
TOTAL OBLIGATION					\$ 3,593,872.00	\$ 5,320,000.00	\$ 2,900,000.00	\$ 1,591,350.00



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
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### EDITORIAL

## School meals are laden with sugar and sodium. Students need healthier food

**L**ess sugar, lower sodium and more whole grains are among the new guidelines for school meals under consideration by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These are reasonable, necessary changes considering that about 1 in 5 U.S. children are obese, a condition that can lead to serious lifelong health consequences if it continues into adulthood.

The USDA's goal is to more closely align school meal standards with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which details ingredients for a healthy diet. For example, these guidelines call for limiting added sugars to less than 10% of daily calories. In comparison, added sugars provide about 17% of calories in school breakfasts and about 11% in school lunches. Currently, the USDA does not have guidelines limiting sugar in school meals.

Meeting the new nutritional standards will mean that schools will have to cut some products, replacing them with ones that meet the new sugar and sodium guidelines. The International Dairy Foods Association earlier this month indicated it would voluntarily reduce sugars in flavored milk so that children could still have the option of flavored milk.

The proposed guidelines would be implemented in phases, which is a smart approach because many school district nutrition directors worry that kids won't eat healthier meals if they are not tasty. One of the public comments submitted states: "If we change the proposed restrictions I believe we will see a significant drop in children actually eating at school. We currently struggle with getting kids to accept the current meal pattern." The USDA has already received more than 77,000 public comments on the proposed guidelines and is accepting more through May. The changes will take effect in fall 2024.

Certainly, changes aren't easy, particularly when children have become accustomed to certain types of food. It may be difficult to change kids' palates if they are used to consuming sugary drinks and high-sodium foods, such as chicken nuggets.

Still, schools have a responsibility to provide nutritionally balanced meals because the food they provide may be the only full meals that many kids will eat in a day. Obesity is more prevalent among kids in lower-income families than those with higher incomes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Nutritious meals are a key part of helping level the playing field in the educational attainment of lower-income students, especially Latino and Black children. Inadequate nutrition hinders students' concentration and can also trigger absences. California public schools began offering free meals to all students beginning in the 2022-23 school year in light of rising rates of food insecurity and to destigmatize free school meals.

Obesity, which was designated a chronic disease by the National Institutes of Health in 1998, afflicts about 14.4 million children. Most kids who are obese are likely to be obese as adults. Obesity can have serious lifelong consequences leading to depression and chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and some types of cancer.

See **SCHOOL** on Page 11

## The Pacific garbage patch is now hosting a new threat

**T**he infamous Pacific garbage patch is changing the balance of life in the seas. At least 37 species of coastal creatures—worms, crabs, shellfish and the like—have colonized the Texas-sized plastic tangle, turning it into an unnatural floating habitat.

The findings, reported last week in the journal *Nature Ecology and Evolution*, show life's tenacity, with a variety of castaway creatures treating our trash as their own Noah's Ark. But it's not something to celebrate. It should be a wake-up call to create stronger, more binding prohibitions against using the oceans as a place to dump plastic.

Scientists worry about the plastic that's infused into the bodies of the animals living in it. That's going to go up the food chain. And they're worried that plastic garbage is becoming a conveyor belt for species that could become invasive in their new homes, wiping out other forms of life.

While it's often described as a giant island of plastic, the garbage patch is not a solid mass but a sprawling collection of plastic items from bottles to toothbrushes to fishing nets. Thanks to a persistent circulating current known as a gyre, they've collected in a single spot in the middle of the north Pacific. Other gyres have collected similar, less-famous garbage patches, including one near Easter Island in the South Pacific.

The one in the North Pacific is by far the biggest. When researcher and activist Marcus Eriksen sailed through it, he saw an endless horizon of water discolored by pollution with plastic particles.

Eriksen, founder of the environmental group 5 Gyres Institute in California, calls it "plastic smog." In a study published last month in the journal *PLOS One*, he and colleagues estimate that the plastic smog worldwide contains a total of 170 trillion pieces.

The 37 species found riding on the large plastic objects are likely to be just a small sample of the total, said James Carlton, a professor of marine sciences at Williams College and co-author of the paper on the animals living on the garbage patch.

The findings follow from an earlier, equally surprising discovery. Carlton had been studying invasive species along the West Coast of the US, when, in 2012 he started seeing giant rafts of debris ferrying coastal sea creatures across the Pacific. He and colleagues realized they were seeing debris from the tsunami that hit Fukushima in 2011.

Never before in the history of the planet has a tsunami knocked a million homes full of plastic stuff into the ocean. Year after year, the artificial rafts kept coming—boats, docks, refrigerators, housing materials, kitchen gadgets. They published their findings in *Science* in 2017.

Some hit land in the Pacific Northwest, and some may have swirled into the garbage patch.

Over geologic history, floating rafts of natural debris probably brought many living things to islands—lizards and frogs to Haiti, land snails to Hawaii, and even tortoises to the Galapa-

**By FAYE FLAM**  
Bloomberg Opinion*Faye Flam is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering science. She is host of the Follow the Science podcast.*

gos. Rafting has had a profound effect on the distribution of life on the planet—and now it's happening on a drastically accelerated time scale, said Carlton. "It was a phenomenon that while classically invoked in ecology and biology and biogeography, we never really expect to see in a human lifetime."

And since the natural rafts were made of biodegradable materials, they couldn't float across vast oceans. "I told my students for 25 years in my marine ecology class that if a coastal species drifted out to sea it was a one-way trip," said Carlton. "There was nothing to eat out there, and it was not an environment in which one could survive." The plastic problem has changed that.

Carlton says the garbage might be creating a sort of hub and spoke system for redistributing species—once they get to Singapore, say, they radiate out, and if they reach Hong Kong, they may radiate to yet more beaches and islands.

Any species can become invasive—it's not something inherent in the organism but a consequence of being moved through some artificial means. Some will die in their new habitat, but others will outcompete the locals and turn a diverse ecosystem into a monoculture. Or they may carry a parasite that wipes out local species—a fate that killed most of the oysters in the Chesapeake Bay. Invasive species tend to be generalists, and wipe out more specialized life forms, leaving us less seafood to feed the world, and less beauty and variety.

While some groups have tried scooping up the garbage patch, that's futile, said Eriksen of the 5 Gyres Institute. It's more important to stop adding to the mess—that will likely take a new international treaty that imposes penalties for discarding garbage at sea. Much of the plastic we discard goes into landfills, but in some countries, it's been cheaper to put it on barges and dump it.

And about half of the waste is fishing nets and other gear, he said. One way to clean that up would be to offer a reward for fisherman who retrieve gear others have discarded or lost.

We can still admire the tenacity of the little creatures that managed to survive in the garbage patch. But we'd all be better off if they'd stayed where they belonged.



## EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# NMI's tourism problems that need immediate solutions

By **CHOI YONGMOOK**  
SPECIAL TO SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I have lived on Saipan for 34 years and have been working as a tour guide for 15 years. I am currently working at Hana Tour, and I am the president of the Korean Guide Association. I am writing this article for the development of Saipan tourism.

The tourism industry is the most important business on Saipan and I know that Saipan's economy will work well only when it attracts many tourists. We have to compete with Guam and other countries to attract tourists. Does Saipan have better conditions than other places?

I think this was possible three years ago. Here on Saipan, there was once a beautiful natural environment, clean sea and sandy beaches, friendly people, and a crime-free city. Is it still like that? The environment is getting worse.

The first is Managaha Island. Managaha Island is a must-visit place where all tourists visit more than once. It was a place with beautiful beaches and clean air and clean sandy beaches.

What about now? The toilets are unmanaged, and so are dirty. The beautiful sandy beaches are covered with weeds, and there is not enough space for tourists to rest on mats. There were no people during the pandemic, so now hundreds of birds live there and the air is full of the smell of bird droppings and their secretions. The feces of birds are falling over the heads of the tourists. It's turning into an island you never want to return to.

Admission for tourists has increased from \$5 to \$10, but the environment has not improved at all. Please visit the management department and solve these problems.

The second is the tour course in the north. The last headquarters of the Japanese military, the Korean Peace Memorial, and Banzai Cliff are also a must-visit places for tourists to visit on Saipan. But there is no restroom. There is one, but it can't be used because the door is locked.

Usually, it takes about two to two-and-a-half hours for the North Tour, but the big problem is that there are no bathrooms. When we tell tourists who need to go that there are no restrooms here, they look at it strangely. It doesn't make sense to me either. Why don't they open the restrooms at Banzai Cliff? Does it make sense that there isn't even a bathroom in a world-class tourist destination? It should not only be open but they also have to take care of it. Clean and fill up the water tank. Please I beg you.

The third is security. A few days ago, a tourist's bag was stolen from a guide car at Bird Island. The guest lost all the money he had brought for the tour and left Saipan with a very bad memory. I called the police, but it didn't work. We tour guides knew that a suspicious pickup truck was circling around the north and was attempting to open the door of the tour vehicle.

Before the pandemic, a guard protected Banzai Cliff and the Bird Island, but now they are gone. If there isn't enough budget, please increase the police patrol at least in the mornings when most of the tourists are touring the northern part of the island.

These are the reasons why Saipan tourists don't have good memories on Saipan.

This is Saipan with a natural environment. If we try a little bit, we can bring more tourists to Saipan and also make good memories so that they can visit Saipan two or three times and show it off to their friends and families.

P.S. The airport bus parking lot is set for tour vehicles with bus permits. We pay \$100 every month to provide more comfortable services to tourists. At the moment, airport staff randomly park their cars in the area, so there is not enough space for the tour buses. Please solve this problem, too.

*Choi Yongmook is president of the Koraen Guide Association. He currently works for Hana Tour.*

# Workers Memorial Day: Honor our fallen workers by doing your part to protect others

By **ROGER FORSTNER**  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Federal safety inspectors recently found Pepsi Guam Bottling jeopardized the safety of their employees by disabling safety devices to allow workers to reach into a bottle-labeling machine as often as 15 times an hour to grab and fix labels and adjust tipping bottles to avoid slowing or stopping production.

Our investigation determined Pepsi Guam Bottling exposed employees to amputation and other serious injuries by leaving the machine's guard doors open and permitting a safety proximity switch to be deactivated. The company failed to protect workers.

Sadly, employee exposures to unguarded or inadequately guarded machinery and equipment occur in many workplaces. And workplace deaths are all-too-common.

In 2021, 5,190 workers died on the job in the United States. Each day, 14 people suffer work-related deaths.

These numbers remind us of the dangers many workers face. Behind these numbers, there are people who mourn each loss. For them, these statistics are loved ones: they're parents, children, siblings, relatives, friends, or co-workers.

For those left behind, the day their loved one was lost becomes a sad remembrance. Graduations, birthdays, anniversaries, and other special times are forever tainted.

To pay tribute to those whose jobs claimed their lives, April 28 is Workers Memorial Day. This is an opportunity for us to pause and remember all those who suffered work-related injuries and illnesses. This remembrance also recognizes the grief that survivors face in the days, months, and years after.

Workers Memorial Day also reminds us that more must be done to prevent workplace deaths and injuries. For those of us at the U.S. Department of Labor and, specifically, its Occupational Safety and Health Administration, this annual commemoration reinforces our commitment to developing and enforcing standards and initiatives to safeguard workers and guide employers as they work to provide safe workplaces.

Remember, we all have a role to play in making sure our workplaces do not endanger our safety and health. If you see people ex-

posed to workplace dangers, don't ignore your concerns. Alert the employer or contact your local OSHA office or law enforcement agency. Demand that the stores you frequent, the companies that get your business, and those you hire don't endanger the people they employ. If they won't, take your business to those who respect their workers' rights to a safe and healthy workplace, and who don't put profit ahead of the lives of the people who help them earn it.

On Workers Memorial Day 2023, let's remember those who didn't return home after work and commit ourselves to making sure that no one is forced to trade their life for a paycheck.

*Roger Forstner is area director of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration – Honolulu*

## SCHOOL

From Page 10

Earlier this year, the American Academy of Pediatrics issued controversial new guidelines to treat obesity in kids. Instead of leaving obesity untreated, the organization now recommends medications for kids as young as 12 and weight-loss surgery for those as young as 13. The new guidelines run counter to the idea that kids might overcome obesity on their own. It recognizes the fact that we need to change our approach to childhood obesity by treating it as a complex chronic condition.

A 2015 study in the *Health Affairs* journal found that improving nutrition standards in school meals were among the top three most successful and cost-effective public health solutions to childhood obesity. Researchers found that excess weight takes time to accumulate, indicating that even small changes in diet can make a difference.

Obesity is a complex disease that involves genetic, physiologic, socioeconomic and environmental contributors. However, it's clear that providing more nutritious meals to kids at schools can play an important role in addressing the epidemic of childhood obesity. It might seem difficult to make changes to the diets of kids, but healthier school meals will pay off in the long run.

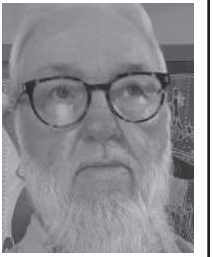
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# More W.S. Sonnets and a New Parody

## LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY CONNOLLY**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.*



## Parody of W.S. Sonnet 116

*(Written on April 24, 2023, my third parody of Sonnet 116 in the voice of D.J. Trump.)*

Let truth never dominate my great mind  
as Rudy Giuliani says, "Truth is not Truth"  
let me look for more alternate facts to find  
distort those facts and let Fox be uncouth  
Oh yes, the Fox fine was out of the ballpark  
but Fox fidelity to me will not be shaken  
let Fox News be the targets of lawyer sharks  
let Fox News pay lawyers money gladly taken  
Time will prove Trumpistas listen when I speak  
the entire GOP cowers when I'm in the room  
now come lawsuits galore week after week  
the world knows I spread democracy's doom  
I know a fool and his money are soon parted  
I may live to regret the trouble I alone started.

Here is Shakespeare's Sonnet 29 followed by two parodies of it, which appeared in the *Saipan Tribune* just five years ago, Monday, April 30, 2018.

## William Shakespeare: Sonnet 29

When in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes  
I all alone beweep my outcast state,  
And trouble deaf heav'n with my bootless cries  
And look upon myself, and curse my fate,  
Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,  
Featured like him, like him with friends possessed,  
Desiring this man's art, and that man's scope,  
With what I most enjoy contented least;  
Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising,  
Haply I think on thee, and then my state,  
Like to the lark at break of day arising  
From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate.  
For thy sweet love remembered such wealth brings  
That then I scorn to change my state with kings.

## When in Disgrace With Fake News

*(Joey Connolly : Parody of Sonnet 29)*

When in disgrace with fake news and lying media's eyes  
I throw childish temper tantrums about my outcast state  
I grow bald and round in size and tell many more lies  
too blind with presidential power to ascertain my fate.  
'Wishing me like to one more rich in hope'  
to use my smarts the stable genius that only I possess  
conspiring with V. Putin and Russian oligarchs scope  
what I enjoy most is being out on my own golf course.  
Despite my being so smart there are some still despising  
instinctively I think of me and my Secretary of State  
with the price of Middle East oil per barrel then rising  
from Saudi Arabia up to the Northern Arctic gates.  
Liquid largesse for me increasing my wealth and bling  
that then I know I am "believe me" an American king.

## Presidency in Disgrace in the Nation's Eyes

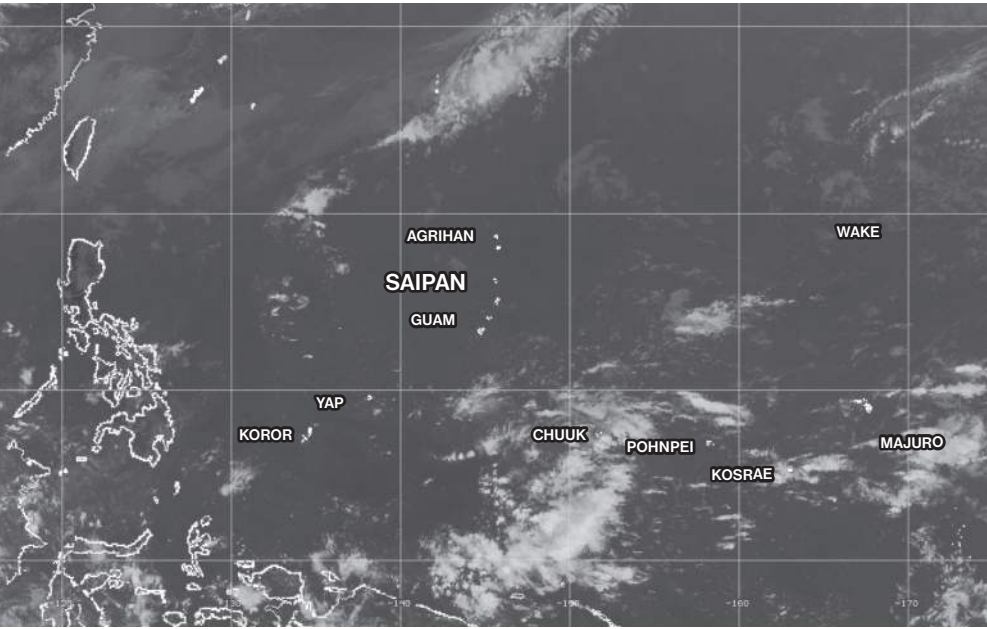
*(Joey Connolly: Parody of Sonnet 29)*

My presidency in disgrace in the nation's eyes  
I all alone tweet my confused state  
And trouble the generals with baby boy cries  
So sad I'm not Making America Great.  
Wish I was like that man from Hope  
He's articulate, a policy wonk and computer nerd  
I'm jealous of his ability to speak and cope  
Instead I belittle and insult others with every word.  
Yet in these thoughts filled with self loathing  
I think of money and how much I'm making  
And obstinately fold my arms inside my clothing  
Continuing bombastic demagoguery and faking.  
For bling and bucks remembered on this occasion  
Dispel thoughts of going to prison for tax evasion.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
87°	78°	88°	77°	87°	75°	87°	75°	87°	75°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:01 AM, THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Isolated showers continue to cross the region this morning, as seen on visible satellite imagery and the doppler radar. Based on current observations, seas are near 6 feet, with a water temperature of 84 degrees.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:55 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Monday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Tuesday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:54 AM	12:23 PM
Saturday	-	1:36 AM	1:13 PM
Sunday	-	2:15 AM	2:02 PM
Monday	-	2:51 AM	2:50 PM
Tuesday	-	3:26 AM	3:38 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Cloudy	67° / 59°	
Beijing	Showers	75° / 50°	
Hong Kong	Showers	78° / 74°	
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 72°	
London	Cloudy	64° / 48°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	78° / 57°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	95° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	75° / 62°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	83° / 77°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	72° / 57°	
Paris	Showers	69° / 49°	
Busan	Showers	66° / 61°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	73° / 53°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	79° / 62°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	73° / 49°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	70° / 55°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	73° / 61°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:26 AM	High Tide	1.69	
9:02 AM	Low Tide	1.31	
12:27 PM	High Tide	1.44	
8:19 PM	Low Tide	0.30	

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 24, 2023

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW9308	3:45AM	7:30AM	4, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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# AlumKnight gains admission into Merchant Marine Academy



Vidal Sablan, who is a member of Mount Carmel School's Class of 2022, has been admitted to the Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York.

MCS

Vidal Sablan, who is a member of Mount Carmel School's Class of 2022, recently gained admission to the Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York, according to an MCS new release yesterday.

The news release states Sablan had a diverse academic portfolio at MCS. Sablan worked hard as a student-athlete and took part in other student activities such as the school's Theatre Club, Chamorro Club, and Mock Trial.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### NMPASI closed today

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. would like to inform the public that our offices will be closed on Friday, April 28, 2023 for staff Professional Development. We will resume regular business hours on Monday, May 1, 2023. (PR)

### Alert level at undersea volcano lowered

The Northern Mariana Islands Volcano Observatory announced that the ongoing seismic unrest at the Ahyi undersea volcano in the Mariana Islands has reduced over the past four weeks.

Since late-March-mid-April, no particular and significant signs of hydroacoustic detection nor discolored water have been registered. Therefore, the volcano observatory declined the alert level to "Unassigned." (PR)

### Scheduled power service interruption for Tanapag

There will be a scheduled power service interruption in Tanapag on Monday, May 1, 2023, from 9am to 12pm.

■ Area(s) affected: Tanapag; Ammuh Drive

■ Purpose: For the line crew to replace two rotted primary power poles

■ Water well(s) affected: None

"Making the decision to become a merchant marine stems from the commitment and support of my parents and partner. In 2021, I lost my dad to cancer, and one of the last life lessons he told me before his passing was to 'go for broke.' To give everything I have in what I want to do in life and to take it all a step at a time," Sablan said.

Since graduating from MCS in 2022, Sablan said his plans after high school changed as his personal and professional goals changed too.

"At first, I wanted to follow the typical route. Go to college, have a flexible schedule, and earn my degree. Since graduating from MCS, my mom advised me to look into the merchant marines so I can gain an education and have a job secured by the end of my training. Becoming a merchant marine is part of my long-term plan and I am looking forward to embarking on this next chapter of my life."

Around the world, merchant marines are responsible for the successful and secure trans-

port of cargo (and sometimes passengers). They are part of the commercial shipping industry trained to operate ships and vessels with domestic and international waters.

MCS acting principal Filmah Buenaflor said, "Vidal's personal growth as a person and student is an example of one of the greatest rewards as an educator. Despite all challenges thrown Vidal's way, he persevered and worked hard to be able to create opportunities for himself. We are excited to see all

he will accomplish."

Sablan thanks everyone who supported him. "I am thankful for my parents, my family, my partner Sajj Pandey, and all my teachers at Mount Carmel School. Since graduating, I came to really see that I had a family at MCS and I know I would not have gotten here if it weren't for the support system that never gave up on me," he said.

For more information about Mount Carmel School, visit [www.mountcarmelsaipan.com](http://www.mountcarmelsaipan.com). (PR/Saipan Tribune)

## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.  
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950  
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962  
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPTS.COM

### AMENDED REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

#### TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BACKUP POWER SYSTEM UPGRADE PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-002-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the upgrade of the airport's backup power system at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-23.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at [wprater@cnmips.com](mailto:wprater@cnmips.com) or Ms. Sheri Llagas at [receptionist@cnmips.com](mailto:receptionist@cnmips.com).

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Prater or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, Friday, April 28, 2023.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria provided in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: April 24, 2023

## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.  
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950  
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: [CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM](mailto:CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM) • WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.CNMIPTS.COM](https://WWW.CNMIPTS.COM)

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport  
"Retail Concession"

CPA-RFP-005-23

for:  
CPA Concession No. RCA-2022-01

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide retail services to the traveling public at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport ("Retail Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide retail services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of Three (3) years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-005-23 is **April 20, 2023**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport or at the administration office at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Retail Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on May 23, 2023**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$50.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

/s/  
CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

### ADDENDUM NO. 1 ITB23-GOV-42300065

#### "ROTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT"

The following changes to this Invitation to Bid have been approved by the Acting Director of Procurement Services:

- Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Ms. Nerissa B. Karakaya in writing by e-mail to [Nerissa.benavente@gov.mp](mailto:Nerissa.benavente@gov.mp) on or before **4:30 P.M. ChST, Friday, May 5, 2023**. All questions submitted after the deadline will NOT be entertained. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.
- For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original, one (1) hard copy, and one (1) flash drive containing a digital copy of sealed bids must be submitted to the Acting Director of Procurement Services located at the first floor of the Horiguchi Building, Garapan, Saipan no later than **9:30 A.M. ChST, May 23, 2023**.
- For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original, one (1) hard copy, and one (1) flash drive containing a digital copy of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 23, 2023** and mailed to the Acting Director of Procurement Services at P.O. Box 10008 C.K., Saipan, MP, 96950, and must be received no later than **June 1, 2023**. Failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid. Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement Services located at the first floor of the Horiguchi Building, Garapan on Saipan at **9:30 A.M. ChST, June 2, 2023**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **9:30 A.M. ChST May 23, 2023**.
- Bid schedule has been revised and categorizes as Bid Schedule A to E for each equipment. Prospective bidders may bid on one equipment, two equipment or all five equipment. Award will be given to the lowest most responsible and responsive bidder for each equipment as indicated in bid schedule A to E.

Please note: All other requirements stated in the Invitation to Bid shall remain as stated.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 and 70.30.3-730 prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks, and Contingent Fees shall apply.

The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids or portions thereof, and waive any immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to award a single or multiple contracts for items A to E.



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CNMI GOVERNMENT

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP NO.: DPW23-RFP No.: 42300067

SUBMISSION DATE: May 15, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

#### "Architectural and Engineering Design for Supply, Delivery, & Installation of Childcare Provider Playground Equipment for the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs Saipan, CNMI"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after April 14, 2023 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Conference for this project on **May 02, 2023**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office No. 207 Building Code Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **May 10, 2023** to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ RAY N. YUMUL  
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

/s/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.  
ACTING DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF  
PROCUREMENT SERVICES

S/ MARY M.S. SABLAN  
Secretary, DCCA

Name: ARNOLD FITAL SEMAN JR. & CHELSEA SABLAN TORRES  
Address: P.O. BOX 7075 SVRB SAIPAN, MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 285-3798/ (670) 287-7245

Pro Se

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of the Petition for the Appointment of General Guardianship for:

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

**E.M.F.**  
**E.M.F.**

Minor Children

By:

**ARNOLD FITAL SEMAN JR.**  
**CHELSEA SABLAN TORRES**

Petitioners

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on May 1, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.  
Dated this 15th day of March, 2023.

Patrick V. Diaz  
Clerk of Court  
/s/  
By: Deputy Clerk of Court



# Business

## FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS CWA initiates AfterBurn Workouts



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Saipan Studio staff lead CNMI Women's Association has launched AfterBurn Workouts at the CWA field on Capital Hill.

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**T**he CNMI Women's Association has launched AfterBurn Workouts for full-time entrepreneurial women who work/live in the Capitol Hill/Kagman/Papago area.

The AfterBurn Workouts are held after office hours every Tuesday from 5pm to 6pm and will be conducted by the staff of Saipan Studio, which are CWA's Woman Entrepreneur Project previous attendees.

"CWA welcomes women and supporting men to take part in our initiative in living a healthy lifestyle while being a full-time entrepreneurial

woman. This will be a fun, energetic, and tranquil event for all those who attend right here in the CWA grounds. Become a member in empowering women for leadership as guardians of our guinaha (assets) to include political, economic, and social leadership. We aim to foster konfiansia (self-confidence) and commitment in women to maximize their potential to positively impact our families," said the non-profit.

Exercises throughout CWA's AfterBurn Workouts will vary per day from Tabata Warm-ups, to Dance Party Workout, to Yoga Stretching, to Cha-Cha/Zumba Workout, and to Muscle Shaping.

Those who want to join CWA's AfterBurn Workouts

only need to be in workout gear and bring their own yoga mat or they can rent it from CWA upon availability.

CWA said the AfterBurn Workouts at the CWA field area (if raining, it will be inside the center) will have a free tryout for beginners. After that, payments can be made through OurGoodys.com using credit/debit/PayPal or just pay using cash.

There are also discounts made available for those who are a part of the CNMI Women's Association as a free member (Konfiansia Member) or more discounts as a paid member (Guinaha Member).

To sign up, copy and paste the link: <https://cnmiwomen.org/membership-application-form/>.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
AfterBurn Workouts are held after office hours every Tuesday from 5pm to 6pm.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Children and men who support women are welcome to join CWA's AfterBurn Workouts.

## House GOPs pass US debt bill, push Biden on spending

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—House Republicans narrowly passed sweeping legislation Wednesday that would raise the government's legal debt ceiling by \$1.5 trillion in exchange for steep spending restrictions, a tactical victory for Speaker Kevin McCarthy as he challenges President Joe Biden to negotiate and prevent a catastrophic federal default this summer.

Biden has threatened to veto the Republican package, which has almost no chance of passing the Democratic Senate anyway, and the president has so far refused to negotiate over the debt ceiling which the White House insists must be lifted with no strings to ensure America pays its bills.

But McCarthy's ability to swiftly unite his slim majority and bring the measure to

passage over opposition from Democrats and even holdouts in his own party gives currency to the Republican speaker's strategy to use the vote as an opening bid forcing Biden into talks. The two men could hardly be further apart on how to resolve the issue.

The bill passed by a razor-thin 217-215 margin.

"We've done our job," McCarthy said at the U.S. Capitol after the vote.

"The president can no longer ignore by not negotiating," he said. "Now he should sit down and negotiate."

As the House debated the measure, Biden on Wednesday indicated he was willing to open the door to talks with McCarthy, but not on preventing a first-ever U.S. default that would shake America's econ-

omy and beyond.

"Happy to meet with McCarthy, but not on whether or not the debt limit gets extended," Biden said. "That's not negotiable."

Passage of the sprawling 320-page package in the House is only the start of what is expected to become a weeklong political slog as the president and Congress try to work out a compromise that would allow the nation's debt, now at \$31 trillion, to be lifted to allow further borrowing and stave off a fiscal crisis.

The nation has never defaulted on its debt, and the House Republican majority hopes to maneuver Biden into a corner with its plan to roll back federal spending to fiscal 2022 levels and cap future spending increases at 1% over the next decade, among other changes.

## Disney sues DeSantis, calling park takeover 'retaliation'

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** (AP)—Disney sued Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis on Wednesday over the Republican's takeover of its theme park district, alleging the governor waged a "targeted campaign of government retaliation" after the company opposed a law critics call "Don't Say Gay."

The lawsuit was filed in Tallahassee minutes after a Disney World oversight board appointed by DeSantis voted to void a deal that gave the company authority over design and construction deci-

sions in its sprawling properties near Orlando.

"Disney regrets that it has come to this," the case said. "But having exhausted efforts to seek a resolution, the Company is left with no choice but to file this lawsuit to protect its cast members, guests, and local development partners from a relentless campaign to weaponize government power against Disney in retaliation for expressing a political viewpoint unpopular with certain State officials."

The legal filing is the latest salvo in a more than year-

old feud between Disney and DeSantis that has engulfed the governor in criticism as he prepares to launch an expected presidential bid in the coming months.

DeSantis, who has framed himself as a Republican firebrand able to deftly implement his conservative agenda without drama, has dived headlong into the fray with the beloved company and major tourism driver, as business leaders and White House rivals bash his stance as a rejection of the small-government tenets of conservatism.



# Nation

WCVB

## Releasing leak suspect a national security risk, feds say

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER  
and ERIC TUCKER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Federal prosecutors will urge a judge Thursday to keep behind bars a Massachusetts Air National guardsman accused of leaking highly classified military documents, arguing he may still have access to secret national defense information he could expose.

In court papers filed late Wednesday, the Justice De-

partment lawyers said releasing 21-year-old Jack Teixeira from jail while he awaits trial would be a grave threat to the U.S. national security. Investigators are still trying to determine whether he kept any physical or digital copies of classified information, including files that haven't already surfaced publicly, they wrote.

"There simply is no condition or combination of conditions that can ensure the Defendant will not further disclose ad-

ditional information still in his knowledge or possession," prosecutors wrote. "The damage the Defendant has already caused to the U.S. national security is immense. The damage the Defendant is still capable of causing is extraordinary."

A detention hearing is scheduled for Thursday in the federal court in Worcester, Massachusetts, for Teixeira, who has been in jail since his arrest earlier this month on charges stemming from the

highest-profile intelligence leak in years.

Prosecutors said in their filing that Teixeira's attorneys have indicated they will urge the judge to release him to his father's home. As of late Wednesday, Teixeira's attorneys hadn't filed court papers arguing for his release.

Teixeira has been charged under the Espionage Act with unauthorized retention and transmission of classified national defense information. He has not yet entered a plea, and his attorney declined after last week's hearing to speak to reporters.

He is accused of distributing highly classified documents about top national security issues in a chat room on Discord, a social media platform

that started as a hangout for gamers. The leak stunned military officials, sparked international uproar and raised fresh questions about America's ability to safeguard its secrets.

In describing Teixeira as a danger to the community, prosecutors wrote that the suspect, who owned multiple guns, repeatedly had "detailed and troubling discussions about violence and murder" on the platform where authorities say he shared the documents. In February, he told another person that he was tempted to make a minivan into an "assassination van," prosecutors wrote.

Prosecutors also disclosed that Teixeira was suspended during high school when a classmate overheard him discussing

Molotov cocktails and other weapons and racial threats.

Prosecutors alleged in their filing that Teixeira took steps to destroy evidence after news outlets began reporting on the documents leak. Authorities who searched a dumpster at his home found a smashed laptop, tablet and Xbox gaming console, they said.

Teixeira's detention hearing was supposed to be last week but was delayed at the last minute after defense attorneys said they needed more time to "address the issues presented by the government's request for detention." Teixeira, who has been in jail since his April 13 arrest, did briefly appear in court in Boston last week to waive his right to a preliminary hearing.

## Appeals court rejects Trump effort to block Pence testimony

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—A federal appeals court on Wednesday night moved former Vice President Mike Pence closer to appearing before a grand jury investigating efforts to undo the results of the 2020 presidential election, rejecting a bid by lawyers for former President Donald Trump to block the testimony.

It was not immediately clear what day Pence might appear before the grand jury, which for months has been investigating the events preceding the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol and efforts by Trump and his allies to subvert the election outcome. But Pence's testimony, coming as he inches toward a likely entrance in the 2024 presidential race, would be a milestone moment in the investigation and would likely give prosecutors a key first-person account as they press forward with their inquiry.

The order from the three-judge panel of the U.S. Cir-

cuit Court of Appeals was sealed and none of the parties are mentioned by name in online court records. But the appeal in the sealed case was filed just days after a lower-court judge had directed Pence to testify over objections from the Trump team.

A lawyer for Pence and a spokesman for Trump did not immediately return emails seeking comment, and a spokesman for the Justice Department special counsel leading the investigation declined to comment.

The appeal was decided by Judge Gregory Katsas, a Trump appointee, and judges Patricia Millett and Gregory Wilkins, both appointees of former President Barack Obama. It was not clear if lawyers for Trump might ask the entire appeals court to hear the matter.

Pence was subpoenaed to testify earlier this year, but lawyers for Trump objected, citing executive privilege concerns. A judge in March

refused to block Trump's appearance, though he did side with the former vice president's constitutional claims that he could not be forced to answer questions about anything related to his role as presiding over the Senate's certification of votes on Jan. 6.

A spokesman for Pence subsequently said that the former vice president would not appeal and that his arguments about the Constitution's speech or debate clause, which is intended to protect members of Congress from being questioned about official legislative acts, had been vindicated.

"We'll obey the law, we'll tell the truth," Pence said in an interview with CBS News's "Face the Nation" that aired Sunday. "And the story that I've been telling the American people all across the country, the story that I wrote in the pages of my memoir, that'll be the story I tell in that setting."

## Supreme Court on ethics issues: Not broken, no fix needed

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The Supreme Court is speaking with one voice in response to recent criticism of the justices' ethical practices: No need to fix what isn't broken.

The justices' response on Tuesday struck some critics and ethics experts as tone deaf at a time of heightened attention on the justices' travel and private business transactions. That comes against the backdrop of a historic dip in public approval as measured by opinion polls.

Deeply divided on some of the most contentious issues of the day — including abortion, gun rights and the place of religion in public life — the court's six conservatives and three liberals seem united on this particular principle: on

ethics they will set their own rules and police themselves.

Charles Geyh, an Indiana University law professor and legal ethics expert, said everything the justices detailed Tuesday evening about ethics was essentially outlined in Chief Justice John Roberts' annual year-end report from 2011, more than a decade ago. "They're basically saying ... What we've been doing is just fine. Let's just re-say it for those of you at the back... That just strikes me as, you know, pretty empty," Geyh said.

The most recent stories about the questionable ethics practices of justices began earlier this month. First came a ProPublica investigation that revealed that Thomas has for more than two decades accept-

ed luxury trips nearly every year from Republican megadonor Harlan Crow without reporting them on financial disclosure forms. Thomas responded by issuing a statement saying that he was not required to disclose the trips.

A week later, ProPublica revealed in a new story that Crow had purchased three properties belonging to Thomas and his family, a transaction worth more than \$100,000 that Thomas never disclosed. Politico reported more recently that when Justice Neil Gorsuch sold property he co-owned shortly after becoming a justice, he disclosed the sale but omitted that the property was purchased by a person whose firm frequently has cases before the high court.

AP

This image made from video provided by WCVB-TV, shows Jack Teixeira, in T-shirt and shorts, being taken into custody by armed tactical agents on Thursday, April 13, 2023, in Dighton, Mass.



# Asia

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### UN draft urges Afghan rulers to reverse bans on women, girls

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)**—A U.N. resolution that calls on Afghanistan's Taliban rulers to swiftly reverse their increasingly harsh restrictions on women and girls and condemns their ban on Afghan women working for the United Nations is set to be voted on Thursday by the Security Council. The draft resolution, obtained late Wednesday by The Associated Press, expresses "deep concern at the increasing erosion of respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls in Afghanistan by the Taliban" and reaffirms their "indispensable role" in Afghan society. It calls on the Taliban to swiftly restore their access to education, employment, freedom of movement and equal participation in public life. The resolution, drafted by the United Arab Emirates and Japan, is scheduled to be voted on by the 15-member council on Thursday afternoon. Diplomats said it is almost certain to be approved, though Russia and China might abstain. The Taliban seized power in August 2021 as U.S. and NATO forces were pulling out of Afghanistan after two decades of war and initially promised a more moderate rule than during their first stint in power from 1996 to 2001. But there has been growing international consternation as Taliban leaders have gradually re-imposed their harsh interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia, on women and girls.

Girls have been barred from school beyond the sixth grade and women are banned from most jobs, public spaces and gyms. In late December, the Taliban banned aid groups from employing Afghan women, and on April 4 they extended the ban to Afghan women working for the U.N. — a decision the draft resolution calls "unprecedented in the history of the United Nations." The U.N. has warned that the ban could cripple desperately needed aid deliveries, and lead to a U.N. pullout from Afghanistan. Since April 5, the 3,300 Afghans employed by the U.N. — 2,700 men and 600 women — have stayed home, but U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric has said they continue to work and will be paid. The U.N.'s 600-strong international staff, including 200 women, is not affected by the Taliban ban.

Biden to visit Japan, Australia for meetings with allies

President Joe Biden will

visit Japan and Australia next month to huddle with allies on their continued response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine as well as ways to confront China's assertive economic and military moves in the Indo-Pacific region, the White House announced Tuesday. Biden will attend a summit of the leaders of the Group of Seven advanced democracies in Hiroshima, Japan, on May 19-21, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said. Then he will make his first trip as president to Australia, which will include the third in-person meeting of the so-called "Quad" leadership of the U.S., Japan, Australia and India. "The President and G7 leaders will discuss a range of the most pressing global issues, including the G7's unwavering support for Ukraine, addressing the dual food and climate crises, securing inclusive and resilient economic growth, and continuing to lead a clean energy transition at home and for our partners around the world," she said. At the Quad meeting on May 24 Biden will gather with Prime Minister Kishida Fumio of Japan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia. The group was formed in 2007 to bolster economic and security relations between the four democracies as a check on China's rise. It was rebooted under the presidency of Donald Trump a decade later, and elevated to a regular leader-level gathering during Biden's tenure.

### Nepal to give priority to relations with India, China

**KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)**—Nepal's new government, led by a communist prime minister, will give priority to enhancing relations with both of its giant neighbors, India and China, but won't use them against each other for its own benefit, the newly appointed foreign minister said Wednesday. Foreign Minister Narayan Prakash Saud told The Associated Press in an interview that Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal is set to make his first official trip abroad to India since taking power earlier this year. Nepal is bordered on three sides by India and shares an open border, while the highest Himalayan peaks are divided between Nepal and China. The two Asian giants compete for influence over the tiny nation, showering it with financial aid and investments. Saud, however, said the government will continue

to maintain good relationships with both countries and would not do anything to hamper ties with either of the neighbors. "We will never use the two nations against each other for our own benefit. We will not interfere with the internal matters of their countries, and we would also want that no other country should interfere with our internal issues," Saud said. Until recently, India was a dominant force in Nepal but China's involvement has begun to grow. China's investments include the building of airports, highways and hydro-power projects. Nepal, however, remains dependent on India for all its oil needs and many other necessary supplies and medicines.

### Pakistan says 2 soldiers, 6 police officers killed in raids

**ISLAMABAD (AP)**—Pakistani police raided Wednesday a suspected hideout of hostage-takers in the country's south, triggering a firefight that killed six officers, officials said. Earlier in the day, a military operation against militants in northwestern Pakistan killed two soldiers. The raid in southern Sindh province was part of an ongoing operation against criminal gangs there and in eastern Punjab province, police said. Security forces backed by troops have arrested dozens of suspects in recent weeks. Wednesday's raid targeted a criminal group that earlier this week abducted the son of a wealthy rice mill owner in the district of Jacobabad. Along with the six officers killed, two were wounded. The hostage, identified as Furqan Soomro, was not rescued and his fate was not immediately known. Police were still pursuing the hostage-takers, according to police officer Munir Sheikh. Hours earlier, a firefight in Tihrah, a former militant stronghold in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province that borders Afghanistan, left two soldiers and two militants dead. On Tuesday, the military announced it had expanded operations against militants across the country, especially in the northwest. The area is a former tribal region and had been a base for the Pakistani Taliban, a militant group that has waged an insurgency against the government in Islamabad for the past 15 years. The Pakistani Taliban, known as the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, are separate but allied with the Afghan Taliban, who seized power in Afghanistan in 2021. The takeover emboldened the TTP, which has stepped up

# World

## Ukrainians mark Chernobyl disaster amid nuclear threats



AP  
A woman pats a dog at a nuclear power plant in Chernobyl, Ukraine, Wednesday, April 26, 2023.

**CHERNOBYL, Ukraine (AP)**—Workers at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant on Wednesday marked the 37th anniversary of the world's worst nuclear disaster amid an ongoing war and nuclear threats, somberly laying flowers at a monument for victims.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy used the day to repeat his warnings about the potential threat of a new atomic catastrophe in Ukraine amid the war with Russia, drawing a parallel between the Chernobyl accident in 1986 to Moscow's brief seizure of that plant and its radiation-contaminated exclusion zone following its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

"Last year, the occupier not only seized the (Chernobyl) nuclear power plant, but also endangered the

entire world again," Zelenskyy said in a Telegram post in English.

On April 26, 1986, an explosion and fire at the plant caused radioactive fallout to begin spewing into the atmosphere. Dozens of people were killed in the immediate aftermath of the disaster while the long-term death toll from radiation poisoning is unknown.

Thousands of tanks and troops rumbled into the plant's radiation-contaminated exclusion zone in the early hours of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, churning up highly contaminated soil from the site. Russian forces remained stationed at the closed plant between February and March last year, before they withdrew from the Kyiv area and it was recap-

tured by Ukrainian troops.

Zelenskyy said Kyiv has since then reestablished pre-war security measures and scientific activities within the zone. But he cautioned that future moves from Moscow could endanger global nuclear safety.

Russian forces have also been stationed at southern Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, Europe's largest and one of the 10 biggest in the world, since capturing the site early in the war.

Ukrainian officials have repeatedly accused Russia of using the plant as a base for firing on nearby Ukrainian-held territory. On Tuesday, Ukrainian officials reported that heavy Russian artillery fire hit cities on the western bank of the Dnieper River just across from the plant.

## Turkish president cancels campaign stops over health issue

**ANKARA, Turkey (AP)**—Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced he was canceling a day of election campaigning on Wednesday to rest at home, a day after he was forced to briefly interrupt a television interview over a stomach complaint.

Erdogan was being interviewed live by Turkey's Ulke TV and Kanal 7 stations late on Tuesday when the program was suddenly stopped. When the interview resumed around 20 minutes later, Erdogan, 69, explained that he had developed a serious "stomach flu" while campaigning and apologized for the interruption.

The president, who was scheduled to make a series of appearances in the cities of Kirikkale, Yozgat and Sivas on Wednesday, an-

nounced on Twitter that he would rest at home on the advice of his doctors and that Vice President Fuat Oktay would represent him at the events.

Later on Wednesday, Erkan Kandemir, a deputy chairman of the ruling party announced that Erdogan had also canceled a rally planned in the southern city of Mersin for Thursday but would take part in a ceremony marking the rolling out of Turkey's first nuclear power plant via video conference.

Turkish officials meanwhile, also denied online rumors claiming that Erdogan had suffered a serious illness and was hospitalized.

"We categorically reject such baseless claims regarding President (Erdogan's) health," his communications director, Fahrettin Al-

tun tweeted.

Omer Celik, another senior ruling party member wrote: "our president remains on top of his duties. After a short rest, he will continue with his program."

Erdogan, who is seeking a third term in office as president, has been campaigning hard in the run up to the May 14 presidential and parliamentary elections, sometimes attending three or more events per day.

He is facing his toughest electoral test of his 20-years in office as prime minister and president, with opinion surveys showing a slight lead for his main challenger, center-left opposition party leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu.

In 2011, Erdogan underwent what his doctors said was a successful surgery on his digestive system.



# Off The Wall

## Patch crowned beautiful bulldog at Drake University dog pageant

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Patch, sporting a jean jacket as she strutted down the runway, was crowned the winner of Drake University's Beautiful Bulldog Contest.

The 2-year-old English bulldog beat out 28 other contestants from six states Monday night to win the top prize. The bulldog is Drake's mascot and the contest kicks off the Drake Relays track and field competition happening later this week. Events will take place at the university's stadium just west of downtown Des Moines.

Patch's entry seemed to get a boost when she carefully ambled through a hoop on the runway, bringing cheers from a crowd of spectators. Her owners, Jennifer Hinton and Joel Kornder of Johnston, Iowa, said they had worked on the hoop routine for months ahead of the competition.



Patch, owned by Jennifer Hinton, of Fort Dodge, Iowa, sits on the throne after being crowned the winner of the 44th annual Drake Relays Beautiful Bulldog Contest, Monday, April 24, 2023, in Des Moines, Iowa.

"I heard about the contest when I moved to Des Moines this past summer, and I knew I had to enter Patch," Hinton said. "She is the epitome of the bulldog breed, and we're so proud of her all the time but especially today."

After being named the win-

ner, Patch traded in her denim for a satin cape and crown, befitting her role as the Drake Relays mascot and the university's bulldog representative for the next year.

Patch is a rescue dog and was among nine rescues who competed.

## 'Mojave Max' emerges; latest since 2000

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A desert tortoise that is the focus of schoolchild predictions and local lore about the start of spring has emerged from its winter burrow at a nature preserve in Las Vegas, officials said Tuesday.

Mojave Max's appearance above ground with a burrow-mate at 3:40 p.m. Monday at the Springs Preserve marked the latest date since an annual watch contest began in 2000 for the critter compared locally with Punxsutawney Phil in Pennsylvania. Phil's handlers said Feb. 2 that their groundhog predicted their spring wouldn't arrive until April.

In Las Vegas, where the threatened species' reptilian winter rest is called brumation, the earliest a Mojave Max has emerged since 2000 was a little before noon on Feb. 14, 2005. The latest had been April 17, 2012.

Three male tortoises have borne the moniker Mojave Max. Today's Max is marked with a radio transmitting de-



In this image provided by the Clark County Desert Conservation Program taken from a video monitor, Mojave Max, top, and another desert tortoise emerge from their burrow, Monday, April 24, 2023, at the Desert Preserve in Las Vegas.

vice attached to his shell. The tortoise seen with Mojave Max on Monday does not have a name.

Biologists at the Springs Preserve think this year's exceptionally cold winter that brought frequent rain and abundant snow to mountains in the West also kept the desert surface cool later into the spring, preserve spokesman Tom Bradley Jr. said Tuesday.

"It's taken longer for the soil in the burrow to warm," Bradley said. "Once it finally

warmed up, Max came out."

The desert tortoise is considered a keystone species and an indicator of the health of a fragile desert ecosystem.

The habits and habitat of Mojave Max are studied by children at Clark County public and private schools, where officials say more than 4,200 students in grades K-5 entered this year's contest to guess the day the tortoise would emerge. Officials said a winner of the 23rd annual contest will be announced soon.

## Philly truck break-in ends in parking lot dime heist

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Thieves may not have been counting on finding a mountain of change when they broke into a truck filled with \$750,000 in dimes, but they still made off with a chunk of the cargo and left coins scattered around a Philadelphia parking lot, authorities said.

Authorities say the thieves

apparently fled with at least \$100,000. It's not yet known how they carted off the mounds of dimes.

The theft was reported around 6 a.m. Thursday. The tractor-trailer driver had picked up the dimes from the Philadelphia Mint on Wednesday, authorities said, and was planning to transport them to

Florida on Thursday.

It's not clear how many people may have been involved in the theft or if they knew what the truck contained. Responding police officers found hundreds of dimes scattered all over the parking lot, and authorities were still trying to determine how much money was stolen.

No arrests have been made.

# Science & Technology

## UAE spacecraft takes close-up pictures of Mars' little moon

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—A spacecraft around Mars has sent back the most detailed photos yet of the red planet's little moon.

The United Arab Emirates' Amal spacecraft flew within 62 miles (100 kilometers) of Deimos last month and the close-up shots were released Monday. Amal—Arabic for Hope—got a two-for-one when Mars photobombed some of the images. It was the closest a spacecraft has been to Deimos in almost a half-century.

The spacecraft also observed the little explored far side of the odd-shaped, cratered moon, just 9 miles by 7 miles by 7 miles (15 kilometers by 12 kilometers by 12 kilometers).

Mars' other moon, Phobos, is almost double that size and better understood since it orbits much closer to Mars—just 3,700 miles (6,000 kilometers) away, the closest of any planet's moon in our solar system.

Deimos' orbit around



This image provided by the UAE Space Agency shows the planet Mars and its moon, Deimos, in the foreground. The United Arab Emirates' Amal spacecraft—Arabic for Hope—flew within 62 miles of Deimos in March 2023.

UAE SPACE AGENCY VIA AP

Mars stretches 14,000 miles (23,000 kilometers) out. That's close to the inner part of the spacecraft's orbit—which is what made observing Deimos such a compelling idea," said the mission's lead scientist Hessa al-Matroushi.

"Phobos has got most of the attention up until now—now it's Deimos' turn!" she added in an email.

Al-Matroushi and other scientists with the UAE

Space Agency said these new images indicate Deimos is not an asteroid that got captured in Mars' orbit eons ago, the leading theory until now. Instead, they say the moon appears to be of Martian origin—perhaps from the bigger Martian moon or from Mars itself.

The findings were presented Monday at the European Geosciences Union's general assembly in Vienna.

### Science Matters

## Dark, boiling hot, teeming with life

An international project has found a large field of "hydrothermal vents" lying on the deep sea Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the Earth's longest mountain range.

### Newly found vents

Mid-Atlantic Ridge is a 10,000 mi. (16,000 km) seam in the sea floor where rock is rising out of Earth's mantle



Five active sites, over 7 sq mi. (18 sq km), located at the Puy des Folles volcano

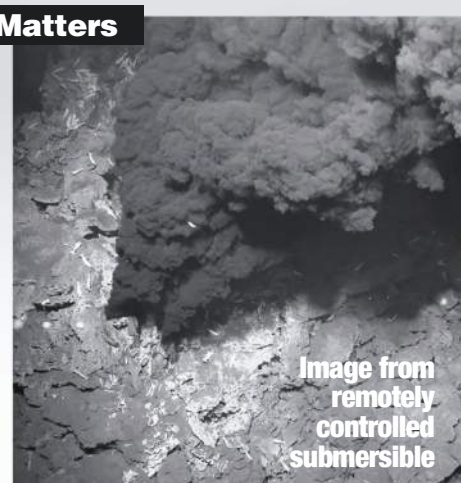


Image from remotely controlled submersible

### 'Black smokers'

Super-hot mineral-rich water flows up through the deep ocean floor

Extreme pressure keeps it from boiling; surrounding water is just above freezing

Flow turns black when fine particles of sulfide minerals contact the seawater

## An alien life system thrives on the vents

A vent's food chain does not rely on sunlight and plants

1 Certain bacteria can draw energy from hot inorganic chemical reactions

© 2023 TNS

Source: Schmidt Ocean Institute; US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service



2 Some shrimp, crabs, tube worms and anemones evolved to live near the vents, feeding on bacteria



3 Another tier of fish and invertebrates preys on the bacteria-fed animals



# Life & Style

## Tucker Carlson emerges on Twitter, doesn't mention Fox News

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Tucker Carlson emerged Wednesday, two days after Fox News fired him, with a two-minute, campaign-style monologue that didn't address why he suddenly became unemployed.

He posted a video on Twitter shortly after 8 p.m. Eastern, the time his Fox show used to begin, that talked about a lack of honest political debate in the media.

Carlson said one of the things he noticed, "when you step away from the noise for a few days," is how nice some people are, and how hilarious some are.

"The other thing you notice when you take a little time off is how unbelievably stupid most of the debates you see on television are," he said. "They're completely ir-



Carlson

relevant. They mean nothing. In five years we won't even remember we heard them. Trust me, as somebody who participated."

Fox fired its most popular personality on Monday without explanation, less than a week after settling a lawsuit concerning the spread of lies about the 2020 presidential election.

The mystery about why Fox Corp. leadership, Rupert Murdoch and his son Lachlan, decided to suddenly dismiss Carlson lingered. The company has not explained it, although some media reports Wednesday centered on material uncovered during Dominion Voting Systems' lawsuit but redacted from court papers.

Private messages sent by Carlson with "highly offen-

sive and crude remarks" were a "catalyst" in Fox's decision to cut him loose, according to The New York Times.

Both The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post said one redacted message included a slur against a senior Fox executive. Each of the reports relied on sources that were not identified.

Some of the Dominion evidence that was publicly revealed showed some offensive remarks by Carlson, including use of a vulgarity to refer to Sidney Powell, the Trump supporter who was pushing bogus election conspiracy theories on Fox and elsewhere.

A Fox News representative did not comment on the reports or Carlson's reemergence, instead referring to Monday's

statement where the company said, "we thank him for his service."

Carlson dressed in a suit and tie for his Twitter message. While he didn't mention Fox, it was reminiscent of the monologues he delivered on the network for the last six years, talking about "the people in charge" hurting the country. Debates on big topics like war, civil liberties, emerging science, demographic change and corporate power are not permitted by corporate media or political parties, he said.

"Where can you still find Americans saying true things?" he said. "There aren't many places left but there are some and that's enough. As long as you can hear the words, there is hope. See you soon."

## Fugees rapper Pras found guilty of political conspiracy

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—A Fugees rapper accused in multi-million-dollar political conspiracies spanning two presidencies was convicted Wednesday after a trial that included testimony ranging from actor Leonardo DiCaprio to former U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions.



Michel

advice as he reinvented himself in the world of politics.

Michel declined to comment after the verdict, but his attorney said he's "extremely disappointed" in the outcome of the case and plans to appeal.

"This is not over," attorney David Kenner said. "I remain very, very confident we will ultimately prevail."

Prakazrel "Pras" Michel was accused of funneling money from a now-fugitive Malaysian financier through straw donors to Barack Obama's 2012 reelection campaign, then trying to squelch a Justice Department investigation and influence an extradition case on behalf of China under the Trump administration.

A jury in Washington, D.C., federal court found him guilty of all 10 counts, including conspiracy and acting as an unregistered agent of a foreign government.

The defense argued the Grammy-winning rapper from the 1990s hip-hop group the Fugees simply wanted to make money and got bad legal

used some of the money he got to pay for friends to attend fundraising events. No one had ever told him that was illegal, he said.

Prosecutors said Michel was donating the money on Low's behalf, and later tried to lean on the straw donors with texts from burner phones to keep them from talking to investigators.

After the election of Donald Trump, prosecutors say Michel again took millions to halt an investigation into allegations Low masterminded a money laundering and bribery scheme that pilfered billions from the Malaysian state investment fund known as 1MDB. Low is now an international fugitive and has maintained his innocence.

Michel also got paid to try and persuade the U.S. to extradite back to China a government critic suspected of crimes there without registering as a foreign agent, prosecutors said.

On that charge, the defense pointed to testimony from Sessions, who was Trump's top law enforcement officer until he

resigned in 2018. Sessions said he'd been aware the Chinese government wanted the extradition but didn't know Michel. The rapper's ultimately futile efforts to arrange a meeting on the topic didn't seem improper, the former attorney general said.

## Freddie Mercury's eclectic collection of 'clutter' for sale

**LONDON (AP)**—He was the king of Queen and his crown could be yours—for the right price.

Freddie Mercury's extensive collection of costumes, fine art, and even handwritten working lyrics for "We Are the Champions" and "Killer Queen" will be auctioned in September.

Queen's frontman had said he wanted to live a Victorian life surrounded by "exquisite clutter," and he left it all to his close friend, Mary Austin, when he died, at 45, of AIDS-related pneumonia in 1991.

Austin, who has kept most of it the way Mercury left it in his home in the upscale Kensington neighborhood of London, said she had reached the "difficult decision" that it was time to sell



AP

A replica of St. Edward's Crown, worn by Freddie Mercury in his final concert with Queen in 1986, is displayed at the Sotheby's exhibition in London, Wednesday, April 26, 2023.

it all, Sotheby's said.

Artwork includes prints or works on paper by Picasso and Matisse. "Type of Beauty," a painting by 19th century French artist James Tissot of

his Irish muse and lover Kathleen Newton, is estimated to sell for 400,000 to 600,000 pounds (\$500,000-750,000)—the highest of any item listed in press materials.

## Siblings take different approaches toward mother

**DEAR ABBY:** Our mom just turned 100, and she is in good health. I threw a big birthday celebration to honor this amazing woman. My brother and I were adopted as infants. She gave us a fabulous childhood, and we grew up to be responsible adults.

My brother, who's retired, lives 6 miles from Mom, but he never goes to see her or offers any type of help he is capable of doing. He thinks a daily phone call is enough. He didn't even show up to her birthday party. I live 40 miles from Mom. I leave early for work to spend time with her each morning.

My brother and I do not talk, so how do I get the point across that he needs to spend TIME with her? If I mention it to Mom, she constantly makes excuses for his behavior. What can I do?

**FRUSTRATED SISTER IN ARIZONA**

**DEAR SISTER:** Although you and your brother were raised by the same woman, you are two different individuals. The pattern of how your brother treats Mom has been established, and because there is little time left, it isn't likely to change. You cannot control his behavior, so quit making it your problem. You are a dutiful and loving daughter. Leave it at that.

■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I have recently retired after 40 years of working. My wife, who still works, thinks I should get up every morning and take her to work. We live in a big city where crime

happens, so she doesn't want to take the bus. Uber and Lyft are strangers to her.

I tried teaching her to drive—even bought her a car—but she'd rather I take her. It's a 40-mile round trip. The traffic is crazy at that time. If I refuse, there are usually hard feelings. I don't want to do it every morning only to have to pick her up in the evening at major traffic time. What can I do?

**UNENTHUSED CHAUFFEUR**

**DEAR CHAUFFEUR:** Uber and Lyft are more expensive than they used to be. Even if your wife were willing to drive herself, the cost of the vehicle, insurance and fuel would cost a bundle. Encourage her to ask if she could rideshare with a co-worker and repay the person for the gas. Even if it didn't happen every day, it might relieve some of the stress on you. Also, if she would be willing to take a bus to and from work on the lightest ridership day, it might make driving her more palatable. It's worth a try.

■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I became "friends" with a woman recently who constantly feels the need to put me down. She criticizes my house decor, my hair, my makeup, etc. WHO DOES THIS? I like to build other women up. I no longer feel good being around her, but she's part of my larger circle. Please tell me how to handle this.

**HURT AND ANGRY IN THE NORTHEAST**

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**DEAR HURT AND ANGRY:** In my experience, people who can't resist the urge to "improve" those around them with "helpful" criticism are insecure and trying to make themselves feel superior. The next time it happens, tell her that when you think you need her opinion, you will ASK for it. Then, to the extent you can, avoid her.

■■■■

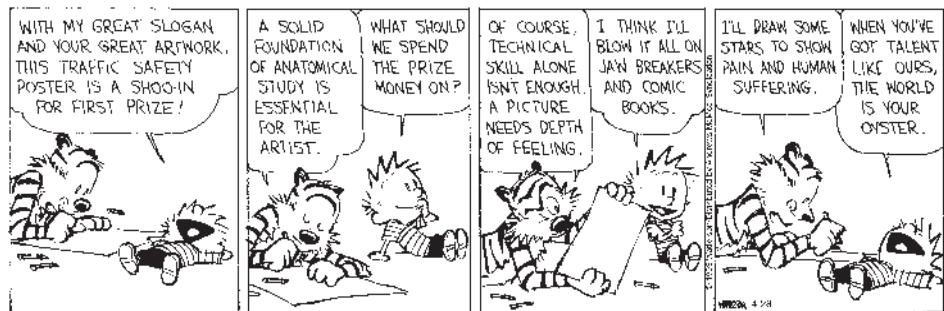
Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



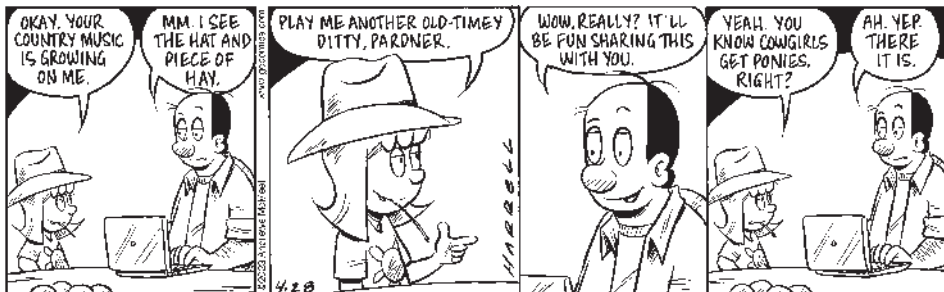
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



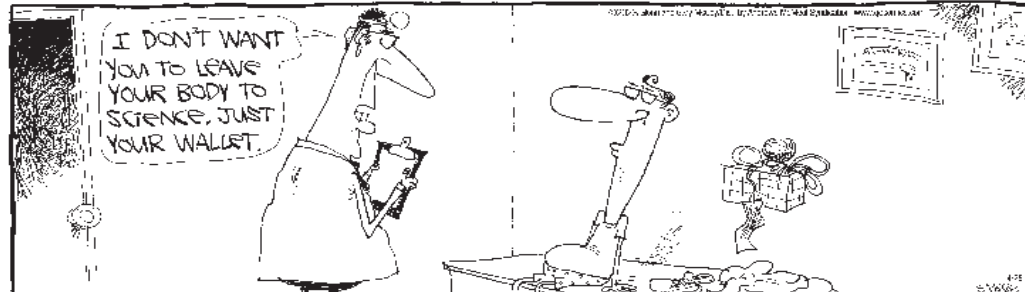
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Wooden pin  
4 Try the tea  
7 Greek cheeses  
12 Carte lead-in  
13 Sch. org  
14 Bumbling  
15 Tiara jewel  
16 Obsolete  
18 Chemical suffix  
19 Govt. security  
20 Unlit  
22 Rock's Brian  
23 Half a sextet  
27 Condo coolers  
29 Marsh birds  
31 Soil enricher  
34 Treaties  
35 Involve  
37 Owned  
38 Crêche group  
39 Obama-care initialism  
41 Watchful one  
45 Engine hums

**DOWN**

1 Sum-moned with a beeper  
2 Justice Kagan  
3 Arcade regular  
4 Espy  
5 Apple music service  
6 "Cry, the Beloved Country" author  
7 Small flute  
8 Finale  
9 Chai, e.g.  
10 Suitable  
11 Sault — Marie  
17 Okla-homa tribe  
21 Island of Hawaii  
23 Pro-fession  
24 Fun and games  
25 Addams cousin  
26 CIA fore-runner  
28 Hit CBS series  
30 Trans-script no.  
31 Haw's partner  
32 Italian article  
33 Conf. room session  
36 Praise  
37 Marina locale  
40 Espresso froth  
42 Google competitor  
43 Dodge  
44 Severity  
45 Some Gls  
46 Doc's "Now!"  
48 Fre-quently  
49 Mentalist Geller  
50 Wee bit  
51 Small bill

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 4-28**

FOR SAAB PONE  
AWE ISSA IVAN  
RESTEASY LACY  
TIG NOVELLA  
BILLED UPS  
UKE SUB SOFAS  
LESI GOD NONE  
BASIL OUT ONE  
CAY BFATER  
HACKSAW NPR  
URAL CHINREST  
EINE HOPI SOB  
SAID TAOS TSA

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Jessica Alba, 42; Penelope Cruz, 49; Jay Leno, 73; Ann-Margret, 82.

**Happy Birthday:** Take stock before you start again. Don't count on others when you should do the work yourself. You have plenty to gain, but it will take ingenuity and doing or overseeing the work yourself. Put your energy where it will bring the highest return. Place your emotions on the back burner to ensure they don't interfere with your progress. Keep your cash and belongings someplace safe. Your numbers are 7, 18, 21, 29, 32, 35, 46.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Keep a low profile; if you are too outspoken, you'll argue with someone you love. Choose to prioritize health, fitness and healthy eating, and make personal growth your target. A kind gesture will enhance your relationship with someone special. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Stop thinking about change and do whatever it takes to get the ball rolling. Focus on your surroundings and make them more inviting. How you live represents who you are. Organize your life to fulfill your expectations. Avoid emotional confrontations. ★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Someone will lead you astray if you are too trusting. Listen carefully and decide what's true or false. Set a budget for home improvement projects that create a safe and friendly environment. Control your emotions and keep your thoughts to yourself. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Gather information, talk with experts and devise a plan that fits into your schedule and budget. Emotional situations will arise that will make

it difficult for you to confide or work alongside someone. Keep your goals to yourself and do your own thing. ★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Get the low-down before you share your thoughts and feelings. You'll make a mistake if you are too quick to respond. Make plans with someone who lifts your spirits, and you'll gain perspective regarding your strengths and weaknesses. Take nothing for granted. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Put your health and personal well-being first. Letting work-related stress wear you down will significantly affect you physically, emotionally or financially. Curb bad habits and implement a healthier lifestyle. Distance yourself from people who set poor examples. ★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Stifle problems before they become something you can't manage. Set the record straight and do whatever it takes to keep the peace. A creative opportunity or traveling will be what you need to lift your spirits. ★★★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Keep your emotions contained. Consistency will be the best way to manage situations involving partners. Engage in events or entertainment that take your mind off work, and an exciting opportunity will give you hope for a better future. Take responsibility for your happiness. ★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Don't gamble or take a financial risk. Avoid big-ticket items and spending to make an impression. Use charm, not cash, to win hearts and praise. Uncertainty will prevail and confusion will arise if you trust and believe everything you hear. ★★★★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Take care of work-related responsibilities before you move on to fun and games. Consider what's important to you and arrange to spend quality time with someone you love. Avoid anyone who tends to overdo it or takes advantage of you. ★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Communication problems are apparent. Think before you respond, and be mindful of your words. A kind gesture will get you much further than harsh criticism. Choose peace and love over discord. Concentrate on self-improvement. ★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Handle money, medical and legal matters quickly. Updates, payments and persistent symptoms left unattended will leave you vulnerable. Trust your instincts, ask questions and verify the information to ensure you get the proper care. Honesty is the best policy. ★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are sensitive, flexible and energetic. You are imaginative and determined.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

4	8		9	3			7
7			6	1			
			7				1
			6	9	5		
1	4		2		7		
	9		5			8	
			7			4	
4					9	2	
	9		4	3	1		

Difficulty: ★★★★★

4/28

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	3	8	4	6	7	9	5	1
5	1	7	2	3	9	4	6	8
9	6	4	5	1	8	2	3	7
1	2	6	8	9	3	5	7	4
4	7	9	6	5	1	3	8	2
8	5	3	7	4	2	6	1	9
6	9	5	1	8	4	7	2	3
7	4	1	3	2	6	8	9	5
3	8	2	9	7	5	1	4	6

Difficulty: ★★★

4/27

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

COMIC &amp; CARTOON CHARACTERS

Solution: 11 letters

R A E B I G O Y M Y Y M M U M  
I C P D P E T E K N K P K R G  
Y E K P D A Y R S N L C B R P  
H F N C E Y T G A U U U O A A  
S R O W U P O R T B R B B L  
A E S O O D O O I N Y L B L  
L D P M G B R C O S C O S Y D N E  
F Y M E B A B C M B R K G H N N  
E R I I N R A E E Y M U I S A  
L E S D O R Z M I G L B L T M  
I M Y B S A A Y Y L O L L O R  
X L E H L S K S F R R O E O E  
O E A B S N I E F N I A R B P  
U L S O I A R M A R G E H C U  
L E G P D B O O D Y B O O C S

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4/28

Babe, Bart, Belly, Blaze, Bobby Hill, Boop, Boots, Brain, Brobee, Buck, Bugs, Bunny, Candy, Charlie Brown, Cyborg, Daffy, Daisy, Diego, Dogs, Dora, Eddy, Elmer, Felix, Ferb, Flash, Gooly, Gossamer, Marge, Marshall, Mr. Burns, Mummy, Nella, Pablo, Patrick, Peppa, Pete, Pinsky, Pluto, Robin, Rocky, Ryder, Scooby Doo, Scrooge McDuck, Simpson, Superman, Yogi Bear  
**Yesterday's Answer: Europe**

The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at  
www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# Heat rally again to win in OT, eliminate top-seeded Bucks



**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—Jimmy Butler was an extraordinary playmaker while leading the Miami Heat to one of the most stunning first-round playoff upsets in NBA history.

It turns out he also was a heck of a play caller.

Butler scored 42 points and the Heat staged a second straight stunning fourth-quarter rally before winning 128-126 in overtime on Wednesday night in Game 5 to eliminate the top-seeded Milwaukee Bucks.

"We're a resilient group," Butler said. "We stick together through everything."

The Heat advanced to a second-round series with the fifth-seeded New York Knicks, who completed their 4-1 series win over the Cleveland Cavaliers earlier Wednesday. Game 1 is Sunday in New York.

Miami, which had to win a play-in game with Chicago just to get to the first round, became the sixth No. 8 seed to beat a No. 1 seed. The last time it happened was in 2012, when a Philadelphia 76ers team featuring current Bucks guard Jrue Holiday capitalized on Derrick Rose's knee injury to beat the top-seeded Chicago Bulls.

Two nights after outscoring the Bucks 30-13 in the final six minutes of a 119-115 victory in Miami, the Heat came back from a 16-point, fourth-quarter deficit and tied the game on Butler's layup with half a second left in regulation.

The Heat trailed 118-116 with 2.1 seconds left and called a timeout when coach Erik Spoelstra drew up a play. Butler didn't like what he saw and spoke up about it. Spoelstra then changed his mind and set up the tying play, which had Gabe Vincent throwing an inbounds pass to Butler, who was waiting underneath the basket to force overtime.



Miami Heat's Jimmy Butler (22), Kyle Lowry, center left, and Gabe Vincent center right, react at the end of overtime against the Milwaukee Bucks in Game 5 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series Wednesday, April 26, 2023, in Milwaukee.

"We've practiced variations of that play with a bunch of different guys," Spoelstra said. "I was going to do a different version of it. He just said, 'No, let me be that guy.' I just said, 'OK, but what if we can't get that pass.' He said, 'I'll get it. Don't worry about it.'"

Butler delivered, as he did this entire series. He averaged 38.4 points, including a 56-point effort in Game 4.

"He's desperate and urgent and maniacal and sometimes psychotic about the will to try to win," Spoelstra said. "He'll make everybody in the building feel it. That's why he is us and we are him. That's the way we operate as well."

The Heat advanced to a second-round series with the fifth-seeded New York Knicks, who completed their 4-1 series win over the Cleveland Cavaliers earlier Wednesday. Game 1 is Sunday in New York.

Bam Adebayo put the Heat ahead for good by dunking in a putback of Butler's missed driving layup attempt with 4:44 left in overtime. The Bucks trailed 128-126 and had the ball in the closing seconds, but the clock ran out before Grayson Allen could take a shot as he

drove to the basket.

The Bucks had timeouts available but didn't use them in the closing seconds of overtime. Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said he didn't regret not using a timeout in that situation. He did regret not calling a timeout with half a second left in regulation after Butler's basket.

Adebayo had 20 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists. Gabe Vincent added 22 points.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 38 points and 20 rebounds for the Bucks, though he shot just 10 of 23 on free-throw attempts. Khris Middleton added 33 points.

Asked after the game if a first-round playoff exit made this season a failure, Antetokounmpo took issue with the question.

"There's no failure in sports," Antetokounmpo said. "There's good days, bad days. Some days you're able to be successful. Some days you're not. Some days it's your turn. Some days it's not your turn. That's what sports is about. You don't always win."

Milwaukee led 102-86 after three quarters but shot just 5 of 25 from the floor in the

fourth quarter and overtime. This marked the biggest deficit a winning team ever had faced to start the fourth quarter of a series-clinching victory, according to ESPN Stats & Info.

The Heat tied the game on two occasions late in the fourth quarter before Middleton made two free throws to put Milwaukee back ahead with 27.8 seconds left.

Holiday made two free throws with 14 seconds remaining to make it a four-point game. Vincent made a 3-pointer to cut the lead to one with 8.4 seconds left.

After getting fouled with 2.1 seconds left, Holiday missed his first free throw before sinking the second to make it 118-116. But Vincent's outstanding pass to Butler helped force overtime and eventually send the Heat to the second round.

"Everybody who got on that bus believed," Adebayo said. "I felt everybody believed. And we did something a lot of people thought we couldn't do."

## KNICKS 106, CAVALIERS 95

**CLEVELAND** (AP)—Jalen Brunson scored 23 points, RJ Barrett added 21 and New York

beat Cleveland to advance to the second round of the Eastern Conference playoffs for the first time since 2013.

The Knicks easily controlled the series and the clincher even after Julius Randle aggravated his left ankle injury and missed the second half. The fifth-seeded Knicks will meet Miami in a series that begins Sunday.

Brunson averaged 24 points in the series and led New York in scoring all four wins while outplaying Donovan Mitchell for the second straight postseason. Last year, Brunson was with Dallas when he got the best of Mitchell.

Mitchell scored 28 points and Darius Garland had 21 for the Cavs, who won 51 games during the regular season but whose inexperience showed throughout their first playoff series in five years.

The Cavs got pushed around and outrebounded in all four losses, including 48-30 in the clincher. New York center Mitchell Robinson finished with 18 rebounds—11 offensive.

## WARRIORS 123, KINGS 116

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.**

(AP)—Stephen Curry scored 31 points, Draymond Green had his highest-scoring game in more than five years and Golden State won the first road game of its series against Sacramento to take a 3-2 lead.

Green had 21 points and seven assists in his first game back in Sacramento since getting ejected and later suspended for stepping on Domantas Sabonis' chest in a Game 2 loss.

Golden State now can try to wrap up the series with a fourth straight win at home on Friday night.

Klay Thompson added 25 points, Andrew Wiggins had 20 and Kevon Looney matched his career high with 22 rebounds.

De'Aaron Fox scored 24 despite a broken index finger on his shooting hand, and Malik Monk and Sabonis added 21 points apiece for Sacramento.

## GRIZZLIES 116, LAKERS 99

**MEMPHIS, Tenn.** (AP)—Desmond Bane had 33 points and 10 rebounds, Ja Morant added 31 points and 10 boards, and Memphis staved off elimination, forcing its first-round Western Conference series back to Los Angeles.

Jaren Jackson Jr., the NBA Defensive Player of the Year, had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the No. 2 seed Grizzlies, who cut the seventh-seeded Lakers' series lead to 3-2. Game 6 is Friday night.

LeBron James started 1 of 7 from the field but finished with 15 points and 10 rebounds, a modest follow-up after the 38-year-old played 45 minutes in Monday night's overtime win in Los Angeles and became the oldest player in NBA history to post at least 20 points and 20 rebounds in a playoff game.

Anthony Davis led the Lakers with 31 points and 19 rebounds.

**HOUSTON** (AP)—Ime Udoka is everything the Houston Rockets were looking for in a coach, and owner Tilman Fertitta insists they aren't concerned about the behavior that led to his year-long suspension from the Boston Celtics.

Udoka was introduced as Houston's new coach Wednesday after serving a suspension this season following the disclosure of an inappropriate relationship with a female staffer.

"The NBA told me that they felt very comfortable with Ime becoming the coach of the Houston Rockets," Fertitta said. "And so that made me feel really good after a lengthy, lengthy conversation."

## Udoka joins Rockets after serving suspension with Celtics

When asked about the opinion of some fans who don't think Udoka deserves a second chance after what happened in Boston, Fertitta forcefully defended his new hire.

"They're not a good Christian person if somebody thinks that," he said. "We're a forgiving society and everybody makes mistakes. And some things maybe we shouldn't forgive people for but, but I think what happened in his personal situation is definitely something we forgive for."

Udoka didn't provide specifics of what happened in Boston but said he's remorseful for what he did. He said he spent the last year working to

become a better person and mending his relationship with his 11-year-old son Kez.

"Having that time off and really a full understanding of how many people you impact by a poor decision, that's where you start with the ownership and accountability," he said. "I preach that for the players and so I have to take responsibility for my part. I took leadership and sensitivity training and (did) some counseling with my son to help him improve the situation that I put him in."

"You can grow from adversity and think I've done that this year," he continued.

The 45-year-old Udoka,

who took the Celtics to the NBA Finals in his only season there, takes over for Stephen Silas, who was fired after three dreadful seasons.

The Rockets had the worst record in the previous two seasons and finished tied with the Spurs for the second-worst record this season, earning another lottery pick in this year's draft.

Udoka takes over a team that made the playoffs in eight straight seasons before the trade of James Harden in January 2021 led to a complete rebuild. General manager Rafael Stone said this month that he plans to pursue some veteran free agents this offsea-

son to add to Houston's young talent as the Rockets try to turn things around.

The Rockets hope to build their team around Jalen Green, the third pick in the 2021 draft and Jabari Smith, taken second in 2022. And they'll get to add another top player this year as one of three teams with the best odds to win the draft lottery and get the No. 1 pick at 14%.

"It comes down to the players and I think we have a tremendous amount of young talent and the sky's the limit as far as that," he said. "They talked about cap space and some of the flexibility we have, and I think they've done a great job

of building for the future. So, I'm excited to be part of that and look forward to the moves we can make coming up in the draft and free agency."

Udoka led the Celtics to a 51-31 record in his one season in Boston. The Celtics finished the regular season on a 26-6 run and beat Brooklyn, Milwaukee and Miami in the playoffs before falling to Golden State in six games in the NBA Finals.

Udoka wasn't drafted and played professionally in Europe ahead of a seven-year NBA career that included short stints with the Los Angeles Lakers, Knicks and Trail Blazers before he spent three of his last four years with the Spurs.



# Birthday boy Judge has 3 hits, 3 RBIs, Yanks beat Twins 12-6



**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Aaron

Judge's 31st birthday could have unfolded badly, with the New York Yankees in a slump and his ill-fated stolen base attempt that ended in pain.

Judge and the Yankees left Minnesota in a much better mood.

Judge had three hits and three RBIs and dodged an injury scare to help the Yankees avoid a rare sweep by the Twins with a 12-6 victory on Wednesday.

"It would've been a sad birthday if we would've got swept here," Judge said.

Gleyber Torres drove a two-run homer into the second deck in a six-run fourth inning against Kenta Maeda (0-4), who left the mound with Twins athletic trainer Nick Paparesta for the second straight start and was tagged with a career-worst 11 hits and 10 runs. Manager Rocco Baldelli said afterward that Maeda was feeling muscle discomfort in his arm.

"It was far from a crisp game on our end," Baldelli said, "and he wasn't as crisp as he wants to be, either."

Anthony Volpe and Anthony Rizzo each had two-run doubles off Maeda, as the lagging and injury-limited Yankees lineup posted season highs in hits (14) and runs (12). They totaled only eight runs over their previous five games, losing four.

"I feel like the past couple games, couple series, we've been a little passive and almost letting the pitcher kind of dictate the at-bat and dictate the flow of the game," Judge said.

The Twins secured the season series with their 6-2 win on Tuesday, their first over the Yankees since 2001. The Twins still haven't swept a single series from their biggest nemesis since a two-game set at the Metrodome in 1998. Their last three-game sweep of the Yankees was in 1991. Including the postseason, the Yankees are 117-44 against the Twins since 2002.

Judge tried to steal third base in the second inning after a three-run double, and he was thrown out on an awkward head-first slide as his shoulders lurched forward ahead of his arms. His right hand was jammed into the dirt underneath the weight of his body, and he jogged without stopping off the diamond and up the tunnel to the clubhouse, causing concerned looks in the dugout.

"Getting thrown out's pretty embarrassing, even on your birthday, so I was just mad about that," Judge said.

Squeezing and flexing his

wrist upon his return to the bench, Judge — who was conveniently taking a turn as designated hitter — walked, singled and struck out looking in his next three at-bats. Manager Aaron Boone said he probably would've pinch hit for Judge had he come up again.

## ANGELS 11, ATHLETICS 3

**ANAHEIM, Calif.** (AP)—Brandon Drury homered, doubled and drove in three runs, and Shohei Ohtani hit a late two-run homer in the Angels' victory over the Athletics.

Hunter Renfroe also homered and Ohtani drove in three runs for Los Angeles, which has won four of six. Oakland became the fifth team in major league history to lose 20 games in April.

Drury, Matt Thaiss and Zach Neto had run-scoring doubles in the Angels' five-run second inning against Oakland's Luis Medina (0-1), who gave up seven earned runs and eight hits over five innings in his major league debut.

Patrick Sandoval (2-1) became the only Angels starter other than Ohtani to last seven innings in a game this season, yielding six hits and two earned runs.

## REDS 5, RANGERS 3

**CINCINNATI** (AP)—Nick Senzel hit a two-run homer in the ninth off Jonathan Hernández (0-1), ending Cincinnati's longest homerless draught since 1991. The Reds had gone eight games and 79 innings without a home run since April 17.

Brad Mills' sacrifice fly off Lucas Sims (1-0) tied the score in the ninth.

Cincinnati (10-15) completed a three-game sweep of AL West-leading Texas (14-10), the first series sweep for the Reds since last July 8-10 over Tampa Bay. Texas has lost three in a row.

## GIANTS 7, CARDINALS 3

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Mitch Haniger scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch in the fifth inning following a dropped fly ball by Cardinals center fielder Lars Nootbaar as the Giants beat St. Louis.

That helped the Giants overcome a big night from Paul Goldschmidt, who had two home runs and four hits. He extended his on-base streak at Oracle Park to 28 games, tied for the 10th longest streak in stadium history. It was the 24th multi-homer game for the seven-time All-Star, whose 15 home career home runs at the waterfront ballpark are also the most by an opponent.

But the Cardinals first baseman grounded into a game-



New York Yankees' Aaron Judge (99) and Anthony Volpe, middle, celebrate next to DJ LeMahieu (26) after scoring off a two-run double by Anthony Rizzo during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins, Wednesday, April 26, 2023, in Minneapolis.

ending double play against Giants closer Camilo Doval.

## BREWERS 6, TIGERS 2

**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—Victor Caratini and rookie Joey Wiemer homered to back Freddy Peralta (3-2), who allowed a pair of unearned runs and four hits over six innings as Milwaukee stopped a three-game losing streak.

Javier Báez, who entered with a 10-game hitting streak, left in the first inning after being struck on the left hand by a 93 mph pitch. The Tigers said Báez's hand was bruised and X-rays were negative.

Michael Lorenzen (0-1), making his third start, gave up five runs and seven hits in five innings.

## GUARDIANS 4, ROCKIES 1

**CLEVELAND** (AP)—Tanner Bibee (1-0) struck out eight and allowed one run and six hits over 5 2/3 innings to win his major league debut as Cleveland avoided a three-game sweep.

Germán Márquez (2-2) made his first start since April 10 because of right forearm inflammation but was removed with two outs in the fourth. Márquez allowed three runs and threw 58 pitches in 3 2/3 innings.

Josh Naylor hit a two-run homer in the first and Oscar Gonzalez had an RBI double in the fourth. Emanuel Clase got his eighth save.

## BLUE JAYS 8, WHITE SOX 0

**TORONTO** (AP)—Yusei Kikuchi (4-0) allowed four hits and struck out eight over 5 2/3 innings, Bo Bichette hit a solo home run and Toronto completed a three-game sweep that extended Chicago's los-

ing streak to seven. The White Sox, blanked for the second straight game, have lost nine of 10 and 15 of 18.

Blue Jays star George Springer left in the fourth, one inning after he was hit on the right hand by a pitch from Michael Kopech (0-3). X-rays did not reveal a fracture.

Chicago has lost nine of 10 and 15 of 18. Things aren't getting any easier for the White Sox, who host MLB-leading Tampa Bay in a four-game series beginning Thursday.

## ORIOLES 6, RED SOX 2

**BALTIMORE** (AP)—Ramón Urías had a career-high four hits and scored three runs, Anthony Santander had two RBIs and the Baltimore won its fifth straight series. The Orioles have won 10 of their last 12 games.

Tyler Wells (1-1) gave up two runs and four hits over 5 2/3 innings.

Tanner Houck (3-1) allowed four runs—three earned—and seven hits in five innings.

## DIAMONDBACKS 2, ROYALS 0

**PHOENIX** (AP)—Zac Gallen (4-1) struck out 12 over 6 1/3 innings and gave up four hits, stretching his scoreless streak to 28 innings.

Miguel Castro handled the eighth and Andrew Chafin threw the ninth for his fourth save. Arizona has pitched four shutouts. Kansas City has been blanked six times.

Evan Longoria had a broken-bat RBI single in the fourth off Ryan Yarbrough (0-3) and Emmanuel Rivera had a run-scoring single in the fifth.

## NATIONALS 4, METS 1

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The Mets extended a losing streak

to four for the first time since September 2021 when MacKenzie Gore (3-1) tied a career-high with 10 strikeouts, giving up one run, four hits and two walks in six innings. New York has been outscored 21-9 during the skid.

Lane Thomas and C.J. Abrams hit consecutive RBI singles in the second off Kodai Senga (3-1). Jeimer Candelario homered in the seventh off Jeff Brigham and Alex Call added a run-scoring single in the eighth against Adam Ottavino.

Kyle Finnegan struck out two in a perfect ninth for his fifth save, finishing a four-hitter.

## PIRATES 8, DODGERS 1

**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—Roansy Contreras (3-1) gave up two hits in six scoreless innings while Ji Hwan Bae and Jason Delay had three hits each.

Drew Maggi, a 33-year-old utility player, made his major league debut in the eighth inning when he pinch hit for Andrew McCutchen and struck out. Maggi had played in 1,154 minor league games over 13 seasons.

Rodolfo Castro added two hits for the Pirates, who won for the eighth time in nine games to improve to 17-8 but drew 12,152, their fourth straight game with under 13,000. Phil Bickford (0-1) lost in relief of Tony Gonsolin.

## PHILLIES 6, MARINERS 5

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Nick Castellanos had three hits and three RBIs, Alec Bohm hit a go-ahead single in the eighth off Justin Topa (0-2) and Philadelphia overcame a 5-2 deficit and an injury to Taijuan Walker, who left after four innings because of right forearm tightness.

J.T. Realmuto and Kyle Schwarber also drove in runs for the Phillies (12-13), who can reach .500 for the first time this season on Thursday.

J.P. Crawford hit a grand slam, doubled and singled for Seattle, and Julio Rodríguez also went deep.

Craig Kimbrel (1-0) struck out two in a perfect eighth for his first Phillies win and José Alvarado struck out Rodríguez with a man on for his fourth save.

## ASTROS 1, RAYS 0

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.** (AP)—Hunter Brown (3-0) struck out a career-high eight in seven innings, and Hector Neris and Ryan Pressly finished the two-hitter as Houston shut out the Rays for the second straight game. Pressly got his second save in a game that took 2 hours, 7 minutes.

A night earlier, Astros had snapped the Rays' 14-game home winning streak to start the season.

Alex Bregman was credited with an RBI when shortstop Wander Franco was charged with an error for misplaying a potential inning-ending double-play grounder with runners on the corners in the first against Calvin Faucher (0-1).

## BRAVES 6, MARLINS 4

**ATLANTA** (AP)—Vaughn Grissom had two hits, including a tiebreaking single in a four-run eighth inning as Atlanta overcame a 4-0 deficit.

Matt Olson homered off Dylan Floro (1-1) to spark the eighth. Eddie Rosario hit a tying RBI triple and Grissom singled for a 6-5 lead.

Sandy Alcantara took a shutout into the sixth but faded in return after missing one start with right biceps tendinitis. Ronald Acuña Jr. homered leading off the inning and Grissom singled in a run.

Michael Tonkin (2-1) threw 2 2/3 scoreless innings, and A.J. Minter pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

## PADRES 5, CUBS 3

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Fernando Tatis Jr. drove in three runs with a pair of singles, including a two-run hit in the seventh off Brandon Hughes (0-1) that gave San Diego a 4-3 lead. Tatis played his sixth game since returning from an 80-game drug suspension.

Chicago's Trey Mancini lined a two-run homer and singled. Nico Hoerner had RBI single.

Nick Martinez (2-1) pitched three scoreless innings in his first relief appearance this season after four starts, and Josh Hader worked around Yan Gomes' double and a walk in the ninth for his ninth save.



# New Chang Ming Market, A's Car Aircon win

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



New Chang Ming Market and A's Car Aircon won their respective open and masters division matches in the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Tuesday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

In the nightcap, New Chang Ming Market let their guard down before eking past winless Checkpoint International, 80-74, for its fourth win in five games.

After starting out like a house on fire and leading 29-14 after the first quarter, New Chang Ming Market had a letdown and only led 47-41 and 62-56 after the middle quarters before set-

ting for the 6-point win.

Keith Santos and Jeffrey Castro led New Chang Ming Market with 19 points and 17 points, respectively. Checkpoint International, which lost all its eight games so far in the season, was paced by the 17 markers of John Yanto.

Earlier, A's Car Aircon bounced back from a loss in its previous game by beating Blue Eagle/Royal Pacific, 65-55.

Jorge De Guzman shone all game long with 23 points for A's Car Aircon (4-1), while Jetzen Jandoc and Mark Francisco led Blue Eagle (2-3) with 11 points each.

## First Game

**A's Car Aircon 65** – De Guzman 23, Pangelinan 13, Basi 9, Bisana 6, D. Tibayan 5, Manabat 3.



MARK RABAGO

A's Car Aircon's Cecilio Bisana drives toward the basket in their game against JSN Enterprises in the masters division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

**Blue Eagle/Royal Pacific 55** – Jandoc 11, Francisco 11, Reign Vice 7, Bernardo 6, Javier 6, Estolas 6, Saplan 4, Cabanas 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 10-21, 39-37, 56-41, 65-55.

## Second Game

**New Chang Ming Market**

**80** – Santos 19, Castro 17, Quan 11, Brennan 9, Aranda 8, Almaro 7, Pastrana 6, Montes 3.

**Checkpoint International 74** – Yanto 17, A. Camacho 15, Ramos 9, G. Camacho 8, Maesa 8, Taraya 6, Lumen 6, Ege 3, Aparte 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 29-18, 47-41, 62-56, 80-74.

# Friends of the JKPL 2nd Annual 5K this Saturday

By LEIGH GASES

leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



The Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is hosting their 2nd Annual 5K this Saturday, April 29 at 5pm.

The course will start from Minachom Atdao in Susupe to Quarter Master Road.

Earlier in the day, the library will hold a roadside waving, then warm up with Zumba.

All proceeds will go to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's

2023 Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Entry fee is \$10 for participants 13 years old and above.

Donations are accepted as well. Contact the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library at (670) 235-7318 for more information.

Sign up in the link below.

<https://raceroster.com/events/2023/73161/friends-of-the-joeten-kiyu-public-library-community-fun-run-walk>

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. said that he is personally overseeing and

helping the library with their fun run.

"I pledged last year after their initial 5K they will always have my support. The difference with this year's 5K is that it's not a sanctioned race. It wasn't on our calendar this year as a competitive run. It's really a community fun run and all proceeds are going to support the friends of the library and their summer program for 2023 for children."

Other races Dela Cruz is assisting with are the upcoming CHCC's CGC Mental Health Awareness 5K and the Marian-

as Visitors Authority's Tourism 5K in May.

"Seeing how in demand organizations are now for partnership with Run Saipan to run their 5Ks, organizations need to put in their request for the upcoming year for our board to vote on. This is in the event organizations wish to partner with us and use the full force of our organization to organize and deploy a full[y] sanctioned road race with all the stops such as timing system, fully trained and equipped Run Saipan race staff, T-shirts, medals, etc."

## WE

From Page 24

Always being there, helping his fellow *kababayans* trying to make it here. Ab loved and dedicated most of his life to basketball. He should be remembered for having a major impact in the development of CNMI basketball. He grew up here and was a friend to many. I pray and offer my condolences to his wife and kids," he told *Saipan Tribune* in a social media message.

Omar Ajoste, who played in the Sonics team under Tudela, said Venus served as his "other father" after his biological father passed away in 2007.

"He (Abner) is a great mentor and father to me not only through basketball but life after basketball. I will never forget the countless hours of hard work he put into our basketball community for both the youth and adult basketball leagues such as the Bud Cup and other inter-island basketball leagues on Saipan."

Ajoste then implored all CNMI basketball stakeholders to continue the work of Venus.

"We must all be one

CNMI to continue his legacy through the sport of basketball and make our CNMI basketball a place of family and friendship."

Pando Muleta, who played under Venus at Marianas High School in the 1990s, said he remembers his old coach as a very compassionate person.

"As a coach, what he hated the most was for his players to get into a fight. He implored us to just play fair and not fight. He also pushed players to be their best especially if they see potential in you."

Adrian De Luna, one of the young players he brought under his wing, said Venus served not only as a mentor but also a second father to him growing up.

"When I met coach Abner at the age of 13, I remember he told me, 'you wanna play for my team' and I said yes and our relationship started right there as a son-and-father relationship. He showed me the right way and what it needs to be done and he showed me the right way of playing basketball. Not just playing basketball but in life. I just want to say thank you for everything you've done for me, coach. You completely changed my

life after I left Saipan."

Referees Dado Vistal and Jess Pabula also remember Venus as being a fierce defender of the men in stripes in the sport. Both said that Venus always got their back when coaches or players question their calls during games. Outside the basketball court, Vistal and Pabula said he was like a best friend to them and a person who would never let you down.

On behalf of the family, Venus' son, Marc, thanked the

Commonwealth Health Center, especially the dialysis center; San Antonio Parish; Borja Funeral Homes; Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation; former BANMI members, the CNMI Legislature; and family and close friends for their steadfast support during these trying times.

Venus died last April 17 due to complications from diabetes. He was 58 years old. He is survived by his wife Cristy and children Ruby, Jul, Marc, and James.

## OL'ACES

From Page 24

of the Mich Ultra Cup.

Ol'Aces and Ali'i were in a dogfight all game long before the latter lost steam in the end as the former remained perfect in the young season at 2-0. Ali'i dropped to a 1-1 record.

Airson Atan led all scorers with 20 points, while Preston Basa and Riley Brungard chipped in 14 points apiece.

Jonel Broncano scored 15 points before fouling out late in the game for Ali'i. Brendon Talania also added a dozen in the loss.

In the second game, New Chang Ming Market sur-

vived being double-booked in the Mich Ultra Cup and SCLC caging by beating Unity Trade, 92-81.

Gino Asau scattered 27 points for New Chang Ming Market (2-0), while Mark Ferrer fired a game-high 32 points for Unity Trade (1-1) in the loss.

Last Sunday, CK Saints (1-1) blasted Bridge Capital LLC (0-2) in the opener, 120-55. In the second game, Socho (1-1) nipped Roil Soil OG (0-2), 83-81, thanks to a last-second shot by Henry Aguon.

## First Game

**Martch Ol'Aces 79** – Ai. Atan 20, Basa 14, Brungard

## All set for Hafa Adai 5K tomorrow

Pacific Islands Club Saipan will again be hosting the island's most colorful running event as the Hafa Adai 5K gets going from the streets of San Antonio tomorrow starting at 6:30am.

PIC Saipan SEA manager Reymark Castro said they have slots for 2,000 participants and proceeds from this year's Hafa Adai 5K will benefit the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

"It is the Northern Marianas Humanities Council's mission to navigate and explore the human experiences of the indigenous and diverse peoples of the Commonwealth by enriching their lives through research, dialogue, programs, and publications," he said.

Castro added that PIC once again has partnered up with a number of sponsors to help make the Hafa Adai 5K as successful as possible. Among them are: Eland Group, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Coral Ocean Resort, Bridge Capital, Marpac, and All-Star Sporting Goods.

Aside from helping the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, all participants will be entered into the post-race raffle and are welcome to join in some fun and games for awesome prizes. These include annual memberships to PIC Saipan along with

lunches, Sunday brunches, gym memberships, and many more.

The most participants from every school level will also receive a \$300 gift certificate from PIC in partnership with All-Star Sporting Goods.

Levels are categorized as high school, middle school, and elementary. PIC supports sports in schools as it is a great start to the health and well-being of students in the community.

The 5K run will start and finish at PIC Saipan and will feature five different coloring stations along the Beach Road route. Participants are encouraged to wear white attire so that the full effect of the coloring stations can be seen post-race. Volunteers will be celebrating each runner's arrival by greeting them with "holi powder." This is a biodegradable mixture of cornstarch and food coloring.

Entry fees are only \$10 and \$15 on race day. Entry forms for the Hafa Adai 5K can be found at the PIC lobby. Registration on race day will be at the PIC South Parking starting at 5am. First 1,000 paid entries will receive a Hafa Adai 5K limited edition T-Shirt.

For more information, contact Castro reymark.castro@picsaipan.com or (670) 237-5147. (PR)

## TEAM

From Page 24

bech as the technical analyst, Mita Michiteru as the head of delegation, Hazel Mabasa as the team doctor, Catherine Attao as the team manager, and Yu Hung Lee as the assistant team manager.

Before their game against Thailand in a press conference, assistant coach Angeles said how the team has been preparing, "Unlike Thailand, we did not have a year to prepare,

but we made sure the girls are coming into the tournament physically and mentally prepared because we are facing the tough teams in Asia."

He added "Of course the girls are nervous as we have a very young team and most of our players will be away from our home country for the first time, so this is a very big challenge for them. However, we could see from our training yesterday (Monday) that they are adjusting well and they are ready for the first match."

## MCS

From Page 23

five wins and no losses each; Francisco M. Sablan Middle School and ACS have a 4-1 card; COVMS have two wins and four losses; MCS has three wins and one loss; TMS has one win and five losses; HMS has one win and; and GCA have yet to win.

**COVMS 38** – Seman 8, Albert 8, Pangelinan 6, Apatang 2, Agulto 2, Wilson 2.

**MCS 30** – Matsumoto 15, Camacho 10, Pineda 9, Torres 4.

**Scoring by halves:** 17-12; 38-30.

## Second Game

**New Chang Ming Market 92** – Asau 27, Mintac 14, Flores 10, Foronda 9, Deleon Guerrero 7, Cruz 5, Apasan 4, Pastrana 4.

**Unity Trade 81** – Ferrer 32, Piriteino 14, Bongolan 7, Luman 7, Javier 6, Alviz 5, Esmores 4, Velasco 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 21-



# SUFC wins again in women's soccer

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

Southern United Football Club continued their winning streak in Week 8 of the Flores-Péé Luwal Division of the 2023 Spring Dove Women's League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Sunday.

They blanked opponent Paire FC, 4-0 as Paire scrambled to conjure up a goal to no avail.

From the opening whistle, SUFC showed why they are on top of the standings as they dominated possession and it didn't take long for them to take the lead after 14 minutes



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
In this file photo, Southern United Football Club's Raenna Ramarui, front in white, tries to get to the ball before a Paire player during their game in the Flores-Péé Luwal Division of the 2023 Spring Dove Women's League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

with a goal made by Angelika Narvaez.

SUFC continued to push forward with wave after wave of attacks as Paire struggled to keep pace and in the 29th

minute, Erin Frink made it a 2-0 game.

In the second half, SUFC picked up where they left off and Raenna Ramarui scored their third goal in the 52nd

minute with no goals in sight by Paire.

Their fourth and last goal was made in the 56th minute by Keisha Deleon Guerrero and that was all she wrote

as Paire could not get on the board.

SUFC has only lost one game, has one draw, and has won five games. Shirley's and MP United are 4-2-1; Kanoa is at 4-0-3; Paire is at 2-0-5; Matansa is 0-3-4; and Tan Holdings are at 0-2-4.

reigned until Matansa's Barbara Peteru found the back of the net in the 43rd minute. A minute later, Shirley's Castillo didn't hold back as she scored again to even the game 2-2.

However, time expired before either team could clinch the W with a tie breaking goal.

## Matansa FC 2, Shirley's FC 2

Matansa Football Club and Shirley's Football Club could not get out of their stalemate and ended their game at a 2-2 draw.

Jenna Rose Tenorio from Matansa drew first blood in the 21st minute and was almost immediately answered by a goal from Jeraldine Castillo.

In the 1-1 game, silence

## MP United FC 2, Kanoa FC 1

MP United Football Club managed to slip past Kanoa Football Club, 2-1.

Moriah Sablan scored MPU's first goal and second goal for a 2-0 game by the 39th minute. When it seemed like all was lost for Kanoa, a goal was made but it was one and done as time ran out and they lost 2-1.

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

Mount Carmel School outpaced ChaCha Ocean View Middle School, 38-30, in the last minutes of the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2022-2023 last Monday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Knights and Lancherus traded baskets in the first half—never letting the other get too far ahead. In between, the Knights' James Matsumoto and David Camacho controlled the ball and ended the first half 17-12.

The second half opened up with a shot from 3-point country by Matsumoto, but

## MCS outpaces COVMS, 38-30



LEIGH GASES

ChaCha Ocean View Middle School's Petuel Albert, left, and Mount Carmel School's Jupri Torres fight for possession of the ball during their game in the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2022-2023 last Monday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

the Lancherus crept up and were not too far behind. At this point, Matsumoto scored 13 points with the highest scoring COVMS player being Santiago Seman with 8.

With the last three minutes on the clock left—it was still a close game—but as pressure mounted along with the countdown of the clock, the Lancherus missed

some opportunity to score while the Knights made a series of quick, accurate passes and hit multiple shots within the paint to pull ahead by a comfortable margin of eight points.

The Lancherus could not retaliate further as time expired.

In other results that day, Agape Christian School won a lopsided game against Grace Christian Academy, 45-8; and Hopwood Middle School notched a win against Tanapag Middle School, 39-11.

In the lone junior varsity game, HMS slipped past DanDan Middle School in a close 12-10 game.

As of Monday in the standings, DMS and SIS lead with

See MCS on Page 22

## TTT Student Mini Derby postponed

Due to unforeseen circumstances and concerns of possible inclement weather conditions, Tasi To Table's Student Mini Derby—initially slated for May 6—has been postponed.

TTT will post updates and announce a new derby date on its Facebook and Instagram pages @tasitotable and on its website at tasitotable.com.

"The safety of our students and our volunteer fishermen will always be a priority. We'll keep everyone posted when we have a new derby date, and we apologize to everyone who was looking forward to being part of this event," said TTT president Gene Weaver.

TTT is still recruiting fishermen wishing to volunteer their boats, resources, and knowledge to make the

TTT Student Mini Derby possible.

Those wishing to learn more about the Mini Derby or are interested in taking students out on the water can call the TTT office at (670) 234-TASI (8274) or can send an email to tasitotable@gmail.com.

Interested boat captains will be paid \$25 per student they can safely accommodate on their boat.

The TTT Student Mini Derby is an event held at the end of every school year for TTT's second-year students. The students are taken out to the water by volunteering boat captains to experience trolling. After the derby, students are treated to a lesson in cleaning and fileting fish by their boat captains and take the fish they caught home. (PR)



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Heat rally again to win in OT, eliminate top-seeded Bucks.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

SUFC wins again in women's soccer.

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24 FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Team NMI falls to Thailand, 11-0



By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

The NMI U17 Women's National Team may have fallen to home team Thailand, 11-0, but their head coach is proud of their effort.

The 20-member team is competing in the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers Group A with their first opponent being Thailand in Buriram City Stadium on Wednesday night.



The NMI team will then face off with Malaysia today, April 28.

Head coach Luem Khen

Koo said that "Thailand is a great team. They are quick, they are more technical so it was hard for our team to adapt quickly."

"However, collectively, our team did not give up. They

all worked very hard. Having opportunities to play against international teams is what our program needs and our players to experience. Overall, [I am] very proud of our team."

The team includes Mia Ysabela Abuan, Mariana Katherine Angeles, Stacy Lucille Ariola, Joselynn Larissa Atalig, Hailey Shae Benavente, Andrei Kaithlyn and Julie Anne Chavez, Anna Julia Dalusung, Megan Mae Elayda, Valerie Anne Estela, Azriel Fatialofa, Ella Ninjin Hall, Alana Hayes, Tamia Kileleman Hix, Vianca Mangulabnan, Cassie and Fiona Regan, and Jacqlene and Vaniqa Torres.

The officials following them on the trip are Koo, Jerishwin Angeles and Lalaine Pagarao as assistant coaches, Jireh Yo-

See TEAM on Page 22

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The NMI's Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez, back, tries to sneak up on a U17 Thailand Women's National Team player during their game in the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers Group A on Wednesday night at Buriram City Stadium in Thailand.

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

## 'We lost a good man'

Former Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands official Abner Venus was cremated last Wednesday at Borja Funeral Homes in Chalan Kanoa.

But before his family and loved one said their last goodbyes, the Iloilo in the Philippines native was eulogized by one of his closest friends and godfather to his and his wife Cristy's youngest son, James.

Sonics coach Jesse Tudela said Venus is just one of a few Filipinos he knows that learned to speak Chamorro fluently and that was a testament to his can-do attitude, which he carried with him even when he became blind eight years ago.

"He stayed positive when he lost his eyesight and was on dialysis. He fought a good fight for eight years but unfortunately ran out of time. His son Marc said it best the day kuya Abner left this world, 'We lost a good man,' I want to add to that statement that we also gained an angel to watch over us as his family, relatives, and friends," he said during Venus' funeral mass last Tuesday at the San Antonio Parish.

Tudela added he will also forever be indebted to Venus for helping him win his very

first championship.

"He taught me a basketball defensive play called 1-3-1 that coaches hardly used, but he wholeheartedly believed it would work. He was correct and on point, as he made me a believer when we became champions in my first year coaching Southern Sonics in the 2005 U18 Rotary Youth Basketball League. We went on to win three more U18 Rotary Youth Basketball championships."

Days after word of his passing spread, many of his friends reached out to Saipan

Tribune to share their fondest memories of Venus.

Antonio Sablan, former coach of many time champion team Verizon, said the CNMI lost not only a basketball legend in Venus but a kind-hearted soul.

"From Day 1, I saw his heart and dedication was into basketball. He approached me about putting together a team that became Toyota Wheels that played together for years. But through basketball I saw and got to know his spirit in helping others.

See WE on Page 22



MARK RABAGO

The wife and children of Abner Venus bid their final farewell to the former Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands official last Wednesday at the Borja Funeral Homes in Chalan Kanoa.

## Ol'Aces 'repeats' against Ali'i in Mich Ultra Cup

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Martech Ol'Aces defeated an Ali'i team for a second time in less than a week in the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Island-wide Basketball League last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

After beating Ali'i last Saturday in the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League, Martech Ol'Aces doubled up on their rivals, 79-71, in the first game

See OL'ACES on Page 22



MARK RABAGO

Martech Ol'Aces' Airson Atan beats Blue Haus Ali'i's Reymark Castro for a fastbreak layup in the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.